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**THE HISTORY OF AN
EAST ANGLIAN SOKE.**

THE HISTORY OF AN EAST ANGLIAN SOKE:

STUDIES IN ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

[Including hitherto unpublished material dealing with the
Peasants' Rising of 1381, and Bondage and Bond Tenure.]

BY

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ILLUSTRATED BY MAPS.

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I. H.

PREFACE.

This study in the history of a Manor and Soke in East Anglia finds its excuse in the words of the late F. W. Maitland, in which he calls attention to the need "for histories of particular manors, for I am convinced," he says, "that the time has not yet come when generalities about *the* English manor and its fortunes will be safe or sound."¹ Peculiarities and similarities exist in the customs and observances of every individual manor, and this is my reason for writing a history of the Soke of Gimingham. I have been fortunate in having access to a plentiful store of original records at the Public Record Office, in Lord Suffield's muniment room at Gunton, and amongst Mr. Walter Rye's "Norris MSS.," and the present book is the result of my researches in these collections.

Gimingham itself can claim some former greatness in the days when it was a Manor, first of the de Warennes, and then of John of Gaunt, and when even the King and the Primate of England honoured the hall with their presence. But I would claim for this book that it is a study of the life of the Soke and its component villages rather than an account of the great and famous people who were connected with it, and my aim has been to show from original documents how a Manor was administered in the days of its efficiency and in its decay.

Hitherto the study of Court Rolls and other manorial records has been chiefly left to archæologists, scholars, and historians, but it has seemed to me that there are other general readers who will welcome extracts in English from a class of document which gives so vivid a picture of life and manners in past centuries—hence the long abstracts of which this book is so largely composed. My thanks are due to Lord Suffield and to Mr. Walter Rye for allowing me to consult their MSS., to Mr. W. J. Hardy for his invaluable help at the Record Office, and to the rectors of the Soke parishes for granting me the loan of the Tithe Maps and Schedules.

CHRISTOBEL M. HOARE.

Sidestrand, January, 1918.

1. *History of a Cambridgeshire Manor in the English Historical Review*, July, 1894.

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MAPS.

MAP OF THE SOKE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD	<i>Frontispiece</i>
MAP OF THE MANOR OF GIMINGHAM	<i>Facing page 172</i>

344125

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 8, line 22, for *vil* read *vill*.

Page 14, line 7, for *Ketch* read *Ketel*.

Page 16, footnote, for "*Random Readings*" read "*Random Roamings*."

Page 26, line 24, for earl of *Barr* read *Bar*.

Page 27, line 3, for *Barr* read *Bar*.

Page 40, line 10, Sir Edward Poynings was Lord Deputy to Ireland under Henry VII., and the framer of the famous "Poynings Acts."

Page 53, line 13, for *Moneoste* read *Moneosle*.

„ line 16, for *Moneste* read *Monesle*.

Page 105, line 20, for *gground* read *yground*.

Page 140, line 5, for *covering* read *covers*.

Page 253, line 38, for *house* read *horse*.

Page 310, line 21, for 1789 read 1784.

Page 456, line 12, for *Challion* read *Challice*.

Part I.

THE SOKE OF GIMINGHAM FROM THE ELEVENTH TO THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

CHAPTER I.

THE SOKE OF GIMINGHAM.

On the northern coast of Norfolk, in the Hundred of North Erpingham, lies a tract of some 9,500 acres of land, which is still known to a few people as the Soke of Gimingham. It was once an important jurisdictional area, and was composed of the eight villages of Gimingham, Knapton, Mundesley, North Repps, South Repps, Sidestrand, Trimingham, and Trunch, with rights extending into the adjoining parishes of Paston, Swafeld, North Walsham, and Antingham, and at the time of Domesday Book, including the manor of Bradfield, which at that date had no separate existence.¹ In addition, the distant manor of Wood Dallyng, in Eynsford Hundred, was at one time an outlying member of the Soke. In the present study it is proposed to deal fully only with the eight villages of the Soke itself, and of these it may be noted two were only partially within its jurisdiction, namely, Mundesley and Sidestrand,² which each contained an independent and separate manor in addition to the territory owing allegiance to Gimingham. Perhaps it is for this reason that their names are left out of the old local rhyme, which still perpetuates the territorial union of the other villages.

“ Gimingham, Trimingham, Knapton, and Trunch,
With North Repps and South Repps lie all of a bunch.”

It will be seen from the map that Gimingham itself is situated more or less in the centre of the other villages, with the sea coast and parts of Trimingham and Mundesley on the north, with Knapton on

1. Blomefield, Vol. XI., p. 6. Paston, Swafeld, Bradfield, and North Walsham are in the Hundred of Tunstead.

2. Knapton, also, seems to have contained an independent manor, *see* pp. 30, 36, and 37.

the east, South Repps on the west, and Trunch on the south. A lofty line of cliffs from Sidestrand to Mundesley culminates midway in Trimingham Beacon, which is reputed to be the highest ground in Norfolk. Inland the fields slope gently down to a pleasant valley traversed by a stream which takes its rise at North Repps and flows into the sea at Mundesley, thus watering the whole breadth of the Soke. The land rises again southward of the stream, and upon this slope, distant about half a mile west of Gimingham village, once stood the Manor House.³

So much for the topography of Gimingham, now for its history. Gimingham presents many typical features of the Soke, notably the union of a number of manors and vills under one central administration. This method of combination was of fairly frequent occurrence in the Danish and East Anglian districts, a well-known example being the Soke of Bolingbroke in Lincolnshire, which had a jurisdiction extending over seventeen other places. We have already seen that in the present instance the Soke had rights in no less than fourteen vills.

The Soke of Gimingham was composed of three distinct elements, viz., the Soke, the Vill, and the Manor, which though intimately related and interdependent, were none the less all separate social units.

THE SOKE.

The Soke may be considered to a certain extent as inclusive of both the other institutions, and can be briefly described as a jurisdictional area extending over certain vills and manors, existing solely for purposes of administration, and quite independent of a territorial holding. "The Soke is an old English institution, and does not fit well into the scheme of feudal dependency. It was not originally a congregation of tenants around an economic and political centre, as the Manor ought to be. It is only a congregation of small landowners around a large landowner, who obtains certain political rights over them; it is the outcome of protection and not of tenure."⁴

Professor Vinogradoff tells us again that "the Soke and the Manor are both institutions of the same kind, and are both derived from the delegation of political authority by the kings. But the Soke represents more especially the relation between a jurisdictional lords and the free suitors of his court, while in the manor the political attributions of lordship are indissolubly blended with the landownership, and the authority of a master over serfs." Briefly, a Soke is "a jurisdictional district attached to an estate," while a Manor is "an estate acquiring some rights of jurisdiction." And

3. The present Hall Farm is erected on the site of the original Manor House.

4. Vinogradoff, *The Growth of the Manor*, p. 303.

again, "sokes may appear as outside adjuncts of manors, and at the same time . . . rights of sac and soc contribute powerfully to the formation of the franchise of a manor." The same writer shows how "the relation bound up with the right to sake and soke is, in principle, a personal one. Certain persons are exempted from the ordinary jurisdiction of the hundred and of the shire, and placed under the jurisdiction of a great man or a great institution." The *Saca* was the right to determine causes and disputes, and to levy fines within a specified district, while the *Soka* "was the territory or precinct in which the " *Saca* " and other privileges were exercised."⁵

"The chief home of the Soke is in the Danish counties. The Soke is peculiar to them, however, only in the sense that it survived the Conquest, and kept its own by the side of the manor, and in combination with it in counties where the warriors of the recent Scandinavian conquest were strongly represented. But it has an English name, and is a general feature of English history as one of the elements which went to the making of manors all over the kingdom."⁶ It was no doubt the strong free element in East Anglia which prevented the Soke from being ousted and superseded there as it was elsewhere in England.

The Soke of Gimmingham was held in free socage by the service of a toad-stool or mushroom ("campnolle"), a very unusual and curious tenure, which will be more fully described in a subsequent chapter. Free socage implies that the socmen were freeholders traditionally subject to the Soke, "to political lordship, and not tenants or settlers on a landowner's land."

THE MANOR.

The very name of Gimmingham suggests the fact that it was a manor, for the Anglo-Saxon *ham* is a close equivalent to the Norman manor. The manor, although it is a kindred institution to the Soke, has a totally different origin and purpose. It is based upon the feudal theory of land-holding and lordship, and is essentially the estate of a lord, held by him either from a greater lord or in chief from the King. "Instead of treating the rights of the several dwellers and cultivators of the locality as originally independent and combining through mutual agreement (as in the Soke), or as derived from an original communal ownership, the legal theory of the feudal state treats them as derived from a private and exclusive ownership of the lord."⁷ For all practical purposes we may look upon the manor

5. See C. L. Gomme, *The Literature of Local Institutions*.

6. Vinogradoff, *English Society in the Eleventh Century*.

7. Vinogradoff, *The Growth of the Manor*, p. 308.

as a Norman innovation which altered the whole relationship of lord and tenant, and which was the chief factor in the transformation of the primitive agricultural village community cultivating the soil in common into the organised estate of a lord from whom theoretically all the lesser tenants held their plots and strips.

Professor Vinogradoff defines the manor as an "estate or district in which the central house is the hall." The *aula* or hall fulfilled two purposes, it served as the residence of the lord and it was also the meeting place of the manor courts. Upon these courts depended the very life of the manor, and without the power of holding courts there could be no legal manor. The lord could hold no Court Baron unless the requisite number of free suitors was forthcoming, and no Court Leet without a competent body of hundredors and other tenants, whilst the Customary Court seems to have been almost entirely the concern of the tenants. The co-operation of the tenants was absolutely necessary to secure to the lord his manorial franchises. Both lord and tenant were bound by the customs of the manor, and it was probably almost impossible for a lord to molest or ill-treat his subordinates whilst the people retained so large a voice in the administration of the manor. There were none the less the troublesome disabilities of villainage which pressed hardly on some members of the community, although they ought to be considered as part of the general scheme of land cultivation rather than as an imposed slavery. Bondage and servile labour were inevitable in an age when money currency was but little used, and it was only with the increase of coinage that free labour began to be possible. When the manorial system was in full working order all went well, but towards the end of the 13th century its decline had already begun, and it was only with the change in economic conditions that bondage and manorial exactions became real hardships. Much of this book is concerned with the decay of the manor, and special points in its organisation and administration will be described subsequently.

THE VILL.

The life of the vill or township goes back to days before either Soke or Manor existed. It is the primitive institution to which the others are mere modern additions. The self-governing village community is far more ancient than any autocratic or seigniorial jurisdiction imposed upon it.

So long, however, as the villagers were allowed to organise their own lives—agricultural, domestic, and social—they were but little injured by the imposition of the Norman manor. "The townships were not destroyed or superseded by the manors . . . the vill or town-

ship attended to its police duties, made its presentments, appeared by its representatives in hundred, shire and circuit, and transacted economic business under the protection and the guidance of the manor, while this latter drew its suitors and dues, managed its conveyancing, organised its judicial affairs, by the help of the vill. . . . Such a combination . . . brought local unity with it, it provided the manor with a simple and compact economic basis, while the organisation of the vill was perfected by the institution of a court which could try offences of many kinds and by a strong showing of authority in the action of the lord."⁸

Taking Gimmingham as a typical Soke and capital Manor, with certain local peculiarities, I have tried in the following pages to give some account of its history and development from the time of the Domesday Survey down to the middle of the seventeenth century.

8. Vinogradoff, *The Growth of the Manor*, p. 304.

CHAPTER II.

DOMESDAY BOOK.

Domesday Book is, in a sense, the starting point of all local history. Before the great survey was taken the roots of society had no doubt been firmly planted, but we have practically no written record of the earlier events which went to the forming of the English Village Communities as they existed in the 11th century.

Seven of the vills of the Soke of Gimingham probably trace their origin to those northern invaders who founded the original "tunscipes," (or "fenced homesteads or farms or villages, surround by a tun, or quickset hedge"),¹ and their names bear witness to their founders. We find a *Gimming* in North Jutland, Repps may come from the Icelandic *Hrepp* or *Hreppar*, a parish or homestead, whilst Sidestrand or Sidestrond has the common Danish and Norwegian termination *Strond*.² Trunch or *Trunchet*, according to some authorities, signifies a weighing place in old Danish, and the name seems suitable enough for what was always the *market town* of the Soke. Knapton, or Kanaptone, as it is called in Domesday Book, is evidently also of northern origin, whilst Mundesley may have either an Anglo-Saxon or Norse derivation. Trimingham does not find a place in Domesday Book, and I have found no mention of the place before the reign of Edward I.

Of the men who lived in these vills in the days before the Conquest we know nothing, or only so much as we can glean from the list of dispossessed landholders in Domesday Book itself. In it we read of the freeman Ratho, who held two ploughlands in Gimingham, a man of importance, no doubt, for in North Repps and South Repps were "five freemen of Ratho of Gimingham." In Mundesley we find the freeman Grinkel holding thirty acres, whilst another freeman named Ketel had similar holdings in North Repps, and Trunch. Both these typically Norsk names are still perpetuated in the district by the common surname of Kettle. Sidestrand owed allegiance in part to the notorious Stigand, successively bishop of Elmham and archbishop of Canterbury, who had been deposed in 1070, and there were also found there two freemen, "one of Edric's, the other of Almar's." We can only conjecture as to their identity, but Edric

1. S. Dowell, *History of Taxation*, Vol. I.

2. See Mr. Walter Rye's article, "Norsk Settlements in Norfolk," in Vol. I. of the *Norfolk Antiquarian Miscellany*. He compares the Norwegian place names of *Nordstrond* and *Fladstrond* to the Norfolk Overstrand and Sidestrand.

was possibly "Edric Styresman," steersman to King Edward's ship, who fled to Denmark after the battle of Hastings. He was a benefactor of the Abbey of St. Benet of Holme, and endowed it with five estates near North Walsham. Almar may have been Stigand's brother Aylmar, who succeeded him in the bishopric of Elmham, which he endowed with the manor of Gunton and other lands, and who shared the Archbishop's fall. In Trunch we find one freeman of Harold's (which would mean King Harold), and another of Ralf Stalre, who was "Staller" to King Edward, and afterwards obtained great grants of land from the Conqueror, lost again in 1075, through the younger earl Ralf's treason to the Crown. We come here across the names of Ketell and of Edric again, the latter having no less than six freemen in Trunch. But when all is said and done we cannot claim to know much beyond the bare names of these early landholders of the Soke.

Domesday Book was a Geld book, that is to say it was a tax or rate book intended to furnish the royal officers with sufficient information to enable them "to decide what changes were necessary in order that all England might be taxed in accordance with a just and uniform plan."³ Geld had been levied in England at various dates since the introduction of Danegeld⁴ in 991, and the amount raised had steadily increased, until it was discontinued by Edward the Confessor about 1051, "but no sooner was William crowned than he laid on men a geld exceeding stiff."

"At midwinter, in the year 1085, William the Conqueror wore his crown at Gloucester, and there he had deep speech with his wise men. The outcome of that speech was the mission throughout all England of 'barons,' 'legates,' or 'justices,' charged with the duty of collecting from the verdicts of the shires, the hundreds and vills a *descriptio* of his new realm. The outcome of that mission was the *descriptio* preserved for us in two folio volumes, which within a century after their making had already acquired the name of Domesday Book. The second of these volumes, sometimes known as Little Domesday, deals with Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, while the first comprehends the rest of England."⁵

It was the duty of these royal commissioners to obtain information on the testimony of "the priest, the reeve, and six villani⁶ of every vill" regarding "the number of geldable units ('hides' or

3. F. W. Maitland. *Domesday Book and Beyond*, p. 4.

4. Danegeld was "a tax on all cultivated land in the kingdom." Dowell, *History of Taxation*.

5. Maitland, p. 1.

6. It may be pointed out that a villain was originally one who dwelt in a vill, with no special implication of servitude.

'carucates') for which it had answered in King Edward's day, they were to know the number of plough oxen that were upon it, they were to know its true annual value, they were to know whether that value had been rising or falling during the past twenty years.'"⁷ This colossal work was very thoroughly carried out, and later generations are able to learn from its pages particulars of every township in the kingdom as it was at the close of the 11th century.

The terminology of the survey falls into two groups, about half the terms employed being English, *i.e.*, either ancient English words, or words brought by the Danes, or Latin words often used in England, "which have long acquired special meanings in relation to English affairs." F. W. Maitland gives the following words as examples of this class: *hundredum*, *wapentac*, *hida*, *berewica*, *haga*, *soka*, *saka*, *geldum*, *thegnus*, *sochemannus*, *scira*, etc. The other class is composed of "French or Frenchified old Latin," newly coined Romance words, or "Teutonic words telling of the Frankish Conquest of Gaul," and includes such words as *comitatus*, *caricatus*, *virgata*, *bovata*, *arpentum*, *manerium*, *feudom*, *alodium*, *homagium*, *villanus*, and *bordarius*.

In that part of the survey relating to Gimmingham and its neighbourhood, the term *carucate* occurs frequently in describing the quantity of land in each vil, in fact, the *carucate* is the unit of assessment, as the *hide* is in many other parts of England. The word simply means a ploughland, and actually it was the amount of land annually ploughable by one team of oxen. Naturally the acreage varied in different localities owing to the lightness or heaviness of the soil, and normally it was anything between 80 and 120 acres. The average team of oxen was eight, though this number was not invariable. The land thus divided into carucates was cultivated according to the open field system of agriculture. Each villein had a normal holding of thirty acres (the virgate or yardland), and sent two oxen to the plough team, while the cottars or bordars had five acres lying in strips in the common fields, meadows, and "waste" of the township. These were cultivated according to a regular method of crop rotation fixed upon by the reeve and chief men of the place. The ploughs were common property, and it was the custom for the various landholders each to supply different parts of the equipage according to the size of their holding. The lord retained a certain amount of the land in his own hands, or "*in demesne*," as it was called, and it was the duty of his tenants to find oxen and labour for the cultivation of his land as well as their own. In Domesday Book we find frequent references to "ploughs on the

7. Maitland, p. 148, and p. 5.

demesne " and the "men's ploughs," referring respectively to the lord's ploughs for his "home farm," and to the ploughs of the village community.

We have to realise one fact if we are to understand the terminology of Domesday Book with regard to land, and that is what F. W. Maitland called "the movability of land." Land might lie in one vill and yet be added to a manor in another vill, and in the case of Gimingham, portions of Knapton and Sidestrand were added to it to make up its geldable extent. "One carucate out of a batch of four belonging to a certain township," writes Professor Vinogradoff, "may be diverted from its natural dependance and made to lie in a different one." Hence the Soke of Gimingham included outlying acres in Paston, Swafeld and elsewhere, while on the other hand there were portions of Mundesley, North Repps and Sidestrand which were outside its jurisdiction.

Buildings are seldom mentioned in Domesday Book, for the fiscal purpose of the survey only extended to land and agricultural values, though naturally enough mills are included in it, for they played an important part in the agricultural and manorial system of the period. The windmill was not as yet in use, and since the mills of Domesday Book were all watermills it is not surprising to find that the mills of the Soke were at Gimingham and North Repps, which are both situated on the banks of the stream. Gimingham had no less than four mills, for in its capacity of capital manor it could force the tenants to grind their corn only at the manor mills. Churches are only alluded to if they happen to be possessed of geldable land, as was the case with several of the village churches of the Soke. Gimingham Church held 28 acres, Mundesley 12 acres, North Repps 18 acres, South Repps 12 acres, and Trunch 10 acres.

The tenants of the soil are variously named in the survey and, to a certain extent, we can judge of their relative positions. At the head of the manorial system, which was the basis of all Norman calculations, was the tenant in chief, holding directly from the King.

In the case of Gimingham, William, earl Warenne was in this position, for the Soke formed part of the enormous grants of land in Norfolk, Sussex, and elsewhere, which William I. gave him as a reward for his services in the Conquest of England.

Below the lord came the *liberi homines* or freemen: the *sochemanni* or socmen, a class of landholders found chiefly in the counties under Danish influence, who seem to have been practically free, except for certain customs and services which were due to the lord at fixed times in the year; the *villani*, a class of bond landholders, with a normal holding of a *virgate* or thirty acres; the *bordarii* (*bordars*, from *bord*, a cottage), or *cottarii* (cottagers), who,

as a rule, held about five acres of land ; and finally at the bottom of the social scale were the *servi*, or serfs, who were " household thralls." Although this latter class made up " nine per cent. of the whole population of England,"⁸ we find very few serfs in the Danish counties, and within the Soke of Gimingham there is not a single *servus* to be found in four of the vills, whilst only four occur in the three remaining townships.

Several animals are mentioned in the survey, and in the portion with which we are specially dealing we find certain entries relating to *runci* i.e. rouncers, rounceys, etc., all anglicized versions of *runcinus*, a luggage horse.⁹ In his " Analysis of the Domesday Book of Norfolk," the Rev. George Munford comments on the small number of horses in the returns, but he explains this by the fact that the horse was not " employed by our Saxon and Norman ancestors in agriculture." He goes on to say that " although the number of horses . . . are few, that of wild mares (*equæ sylvaticæ*) is more considerable ; there were herds of these animals, numbering from 12 to 36 in several parishes in Norfolk," and in Gimingham there was in King Edward's time a herd of eleven. " The wild mares appear to have been kept exclusively for breeding, and never to have been broken in, while from their offspring the lord selected such as he thought best fitted for the use of the saddle or draught."¹⁰ Cows (" *vaccæ* ") are seldom mentioned as a separate class of beast, but they are often included under the term " *animalia*," which is used more frequently, a word usually translated as *beast*, i.e., a comprehensive term for all animals not employed in agriculture. The *porci* or swine are a feature in nearly every place. They found pannage (or feed) in the wastes and woodlands which then formed so large a percentage of the country, and it is possible to gauge roughly the amount of this uncultivated ground in each vill by the number of swine which it was assessed to support, Gimingham, for instance, being able to maintain 80, whilst Sidestrand could only keep 3, and Mundesley apparently had no pannage at all. It is noteworthy that although Gimingham was estimated to have woodland for 80 swine, at this time there were only 40 in the vill. Sheep were scarce in this district of Norfolk,¹¹ but Gimingham boasted a flock of 160, where there had been but 30 in King Edward's days. These flocks were of real importance to the village community, for they not only supplied mutton and wool, but their milk was also in

8. See Frederick Seebohm, *The English Village Community*, p. 89.

9. It is interesting to notice that *Rounce* is a fairly common surname in North Norfolk.

10. See Munford, *Analysis of the Domesday Book of Norfolk*, p. 68, etc.

11. See *Victoria History of Norfolk*, Vol. II., p. 24.

demand. Gimingham had besides its flock, 30 goats. It is not unlikely that the greater part of the stock of the whole Soke is entered under the heading of Gimingham, for we find no less than 327 beasts enumerated in the survey of Gimingham, whilst only 27¹² are mentioned in the whole of the rest of the Soke. The centre of the Soke was also the centre of its agricultural, judicial, and social life, and it quite possibly served as the breeding farm of the district.

The value of land and the number of men and beasts enumerated in a vill is nearly always compared to what it was in the time of King Edward ("T.R.E."), the words "then as now" being the usual formula, and it is interesting to follow the fluctuations of the population and prosperity of the different townships in the days before and after the Conquest. For instance, in Gimingham itself we find that there were formerly 2 serfs and "now 1," "then and after 2 ploughs on the demesne and now 3," which infers an increase in the lord's cultivated land¹³; "then and after 2 mills and now 4"; then there were 2 rounces and 11 wild mares, and now there are but 7 mares and no rounces, but on the other hand there is an increase in the number of swine and sheep, and there are 8 "beasts" where formerly there were none.

Enough has been said above to explain the text from Domesday Book which follows. Unless otherwise stated the land forms part of the estate of William, earl Warenne. (The extracts have been transcribed from the Victoria History of Norfolk, Vol. II.)

f. 170b.

GIMINGHAM.

In Gimingham 1 freeman Ratho, holds two ploughlands. Then as now 12 villeins and 40 bordars. Then 2 serfs, now 1. Then and after 2 ploughs on the demesne, and now 3. Then as now 4 ploughs belonging to the men. Wood(land) for 80 swine, 12 acres of meadow. Then and after 2 mills, and now 4. Then 2 rounceys. Then 11 mild mares, now 7, now 8 beasts. Then 30 swine, now 40. Then 30 sheep, now 160. Then as now 30 goats; and 23 Sokemen with 48 acres of land. Then as now 3½ ploughs, 1 church, (with) 28 acres.¹⁴

f. 170b.

KNAPTON.

Kanapatone is held by one freeman (as) 1 ploughland. Then

12. This is the largest possible number calculable from the Domesday entries; it probably was less, for "woodland for 3 swine," and similar entries, do not necessarily mean that there were that number of swine actually feeding there.

13. Note similar entries in Knapton and Sidestrand.

14. "Knapton and Sustran were added to it, under which towns see the value." Blomefield.

as now 10 villeins and 5 bordars. Then 1 serf, now 2. Then and afterwards 1 plough on the demesne, and now 2. Then as now 1 plough belonging to the men, 2 acres of meadow and 13 sokemen with 3 ploughlands and 1 bordar. Then as now $3\frac{1}{2}$ ploughs and 4 beasts and 4 swine; and it was delivered to complete (the manor of) Gimingham. And Giming(ham) then was worth 40 shillings, and afterwards 4 pounds, now 8 pounds.

(Also under Sistron).

f. 171.

Then and afterwards Kanapat(one) was worth 20 shillings,¹⁵ now 60; and the whole of this was delivered for 1 manor of 4 ploughlands. And the whole of this is 2 leagues and 8 perches and 5 feet in length, and in breadth 1 league and 12 perches and 4 feet, and (pays) for geld 5 shillings (and) 1 penny whoever may hold there.

MUNDESLEY.

f. 171.

In Muleslai Grinkel 1 freeman holds 30 acres of land and 2 bordars. Then as now 1 plough. And in addition to this William (de Warenne) holds in the same place 3 freemen (who were) Edri's T.R.E. with 10 acres of land and 1 plough. Then as now it paid 4 shillings. (There is) 1 church with 12 acres.

In Muleslai and in Truchet R(obert) Malet claims 19 freemen, 3 in commendation, and the others with all their custom.

NORTH AND SOUTH REPPS.

f. 171.

In Repes 2 freemen of Edric's hold 30 acres of land. Then as now 2 villeins, 2 ploughs, and 4 bordars. Then as now it was worth 6 shillings.

In Norrepes (is) 1 freemen of Ketell's with 30 acres of land. Then as now 2 villeins and 5 bordars. Wood (land) for 5 swine. Then as now 1 plough, 2 acres of meadow, 2 mills, 1 church with 18 acres. Then as now it was worth 10 shillings.

f. 171b.

In Sutrepes and Norhepes (are) 8 freemen, 2 of Alvoid the Abbot's,¹⁶ 5 of Ratho's of Gimingham, 1 of Osbert's, with 16 acres, and they have 2 ploughs. Then as now it was worth 4 shillings: 1 church (with) 12 acres. And the whole is half a league and 2 perches in length, and 4 furlongs and 4 feet in breadth,

15. The value of a shilling in Domesday Book would be roughly about thirty shillings in modern money.

16. No doubt of St. Benet at Holm.

and (pays) for geld 6 pence and a halfpenny and half a farthing. And this whole was delivered to W(illiam de Warenne) for 1 manor (as) 5 ploughlands belonging to Torp (Thorpe Market).

In North and South Repps the abbot of St. Benet, and William de Scohies also held land, and these entries are found in different sections of Domesday Book.

f. 216.

LAND OF (THE ABBOT OF) ST. BENET OF HOLM, "FOR THE FOOD OF THE MONKS."

"In Reppes [North and South Repps] (there is) half a ploughland, 1 villein, 5 bordars, 1 plough on the demesne. Then 1 plough belonging to the men, now a half. It is worth 10 shillings.

f. 223b.

LAND OF WILLIAM DE SCOHIES OR ESCOIS.

In Repes [North and South Repps], Gert held 1 freeman T.R.E. and Arduin held when Ralf suffered forfeiture, now Quintin holds him of William, and he calls on Robert Blund (to warrant him) as his feoffor. (revocat liberatorem Roburtum Blundum). (He has) 30 acres of land. Then as now (he had) 1 villein and 1 bordar and 1 acre of meadow and 1 plough. It was then worth 2 shillings, now 10.

SIDESTRAND.

f. 170b.

Sistran was held of Stigand the Archbishop by 1 freeman for a manor of 1 ploughland. Then as now 8 villeins and 1 serf. Then and after 1 plough on the demesne, and now 2, and 1 plough belonging to the men; and 5 Sokemen with 21 acres of land. Then as now 1 plough, 1½ acres of meadow. Then as now 2 rounceys. Then 3 beasts and 3 swine. This Waleram delivered to complete (ad proficiendum) the manor of Giminge ham.

(Here follow particulars of Knapton).

f. 171.

Sistran was worth then and afterwards 20 shillings, now 60. (Then and afterwards Kanapat((one) was worth 20 shillings, now 60; and the whole of this was delivered for 1 manor of 4 ploughlands. And the whole of this is 2 leagues and 8 perches and 5 feet in length, and in breadth 1 league and 12 perches and 4 feet, and (pays) for geld 5 shillings (and) 1 penny whoever may hold there).

(Here follow five other entries).

In Sistran (are) 2 freemen, 1 of Edric's the other Almar's, with 60 acres of land. Then as now 5 villeins and 5 bordars and 3 ploughs; 1 acre of meadow. Wood(land) for 3 swine. Then as now it was worth 10 shillings.

TRUNCH.

In Trunchet 3 freemen, 1 of Harold's, the second of Ralf Stalre, the third of Ketch, (hold) 90 acres of land and 14 bordars. Then as now 5 ploughs among them, 1 church (with) 10 acres. Wood(land) for 3 swine, 3 acres of meadow. Then as now it was worth 30 shillings. And in addition (adhuc) there are there 6 freemen (who were) Edric's T.R.E. with 34 acres of land and 2 ploughs and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow. Then as now it was worth 7 shillings and 4 pence.

(See also under Mundesley).

CHAPTER III.

THE DE WARENNES AND THEIR FEUDAL TENANTS.

When William the Conqueror landed in England, he brought with him a number of notable followers, whose names are still enrolled in the Church of Dives in Normandy, and amongst them is that of Guillaume de Guarenne or Warenne. As a reward for his good service the newly-made King created him earl of Warenne and Surrey, and settled upon him enormous estates in various parts of England, notably in Sussex and Norfolk. In the former county his principal holding centred round the Castle of Lewes, whilst in Norfolk Castleacre was his stronghold. Altogether in Norfolk he held no less than 139 manors, of which the Soke and Manor of Gimingham was second only in importance to Castleacre. This first earl Warenne has rightly enough been called "the great landholder of North and West Norfolk."

He married a certain Gundrada, who is said to have been a daughter of the Conqueror himself, and to them the Cluniac Monks owed their introduction into England. The earl himself has left us an account of how he came to be the benefactor of this Order.

"I William de Warenne and Gundrada my wife wishing to make a pilgrimage to St. Peter in Rome, went on our way stopping at many monasteries which are to be found in France and Burgundy, and there we offered up our prayers. And when we had reached Burgundy we learnt that we could not safely go further because of the war which was going on then, between the Pope and the Emperor. Thereupon we took up our abode at the monastery of Clugny, a great and holy abbey built in honour of St. Peter. . . . And because we found there such great sanctity and devotion and Christian charity, and moreover so much honour shewn us by the good Prior and all the convent—who received us into their society and fraternity—we began to regard that Order and that House with love and devout regard above all other Religious Houses that we had seen. But Sir Hugh their holy Abbot was not then at home. And because a long time before—and now more than ever—my wife and I had it in our purpose and wish, by the counsel of Lanfranc the Lord Archbishop, to raise up some Religious House for our sins and for the salvation of our souls, it seemed to us then, that we should not be willing to found it of any other Order so gladly

as of the Cluniac Order. And therefore we sent and requested of Sir Hugh the Abbot and of the whole sacred congregation, that they would grant to us two or three or four monks of their flock on whom we would bestow the Church hard by our Castle of Lewes, which in ancient times had existed in honour of St. Pancras, and which we, from being a wooden church, had converted into one of stone. And at starting we were prepared to surrender as much land and cattle and goods as might suffice for the support of twelve monks. But the holy Abbot was at first very averse to listen to our petition because of our foreign land being so far a distance off, and especially because of the passage by sea. But after that we had procured a license to introduce Cluniac Monks into the land of England from our lord King William; and that the Abbot on his part had been certified of the King's will, then at last he granted and sent to us four of his monks, to wit Sir Lanzo and three associates, on whom at the outset we bestowed all the things which we had promised, and we confirmed the same by a writing which we sent to the Abbot and convent of Clugny, because they were unwilling to send their monks till this had been done. And thus it was granted to me and to my wife to bring the Cluniac Monks into our English land."¹

Part of the endowment of the Priory of Lewes was drawn from Gimingham, for he granted to his new foundation the advowson of the Church there, and "also gave 40 shillings of soccage rent to the said Priory in the Soke of Gimingham; and the monks of Lewes had a pension of 5 marks *per ann.* out of the Rectory, confirmed to them by John de Oxford, Bishop of Norwich."²

Gundrada died at Castleacre in 1085, and was buried at Lewes in the Priory Church of St. Pancras. Her husband survived her until 1089, when he, too, was buried at Lewes.

The first Earl William was a man of great importance in his day, and held the office of Justiciary of the Kingdom, besides being one of the Counsellors of State deputed to govern England during the King's absence in Normandy. He was also keeper of Norwich Castle after the rebellion of earl Ralph in 1076.

Before his death he had already projected and begun to build another Cluniac foundation—at Castleacre, as a cell to the Priory of Lewes. He endowed it with four Norfolk advowsons—Castleacre, Methwold, Trunch, and Wickmere (Trunch being, of course, part of the Soke of Gimingham).

1. Quoted by Dr. Jessopp, *Random Readings*, pp. 66-68.

2. Blomefield, Vol. VIII., p. 125.

His son and heir, the second earl William, continued his father's benefactions to Castleacre, and completed the building of the Priory and part of the Church. Besides making various gifts of land for its endowment the earl also gave his serf, "Ulmar the Stonemason," to work upon the new Church, which was eventually consecrated by Bishop Turbus of Norwich, in the lifetime of his son, the third earl William.

Earl William the second was, like his father, a notable personage, who had even aspired to the hand of Matilda, daughter of King Malcolm of Scotland. This marriage was not sanctioned by William Rufus, who was afraid that his powerful vassal might become dangerous if he allied himself to the royal house of Scotland, so Princess Matilda eventually became the wife of Henry I., whilst earl Warrene contented himself with Isabel, daughter of Hugh of Vermandois. The second earl died in 1138, and earl William the third succeeded him.

The new earl was requited for services to King Stephen by a grant of the demesnes of the borough of Thetford, and "the lands and advowsons on the Suffolk side of the river, both within and without the borough."³ He evidently was deeply moved by the spirit of the Crusades, for we find him founding the Augustinian Priory of the Holy Sepulchre at Thetford, and granting to it as an endowment all the lands and franchises in Thetford lately bestowed on him by the king, including the right to hold two annual fairs on the feasts of the Invention (3rd May) and the Exaltation (14th September) of the Holy Cross. The charter closes with a commendation of the Priory "to his brother palmers, to the burgesses, and to all his faithful friends," and it is witnessed by his brothers Ralph and Reginald. The earl himself was on the eve of starting for the Holy Sepulchre itself, as a member of the Crusade of St. Louis of France. He never returned from this expedition, but died in the Holy Land in 1148. He had married Ela, daughter of William Talvace, earl of Poitou and Belesme, who, amongst other works of piety, was the foundress of the small Priory of Slevesholm, near Methwold, as a cell to Castleacre.

The third earl William was the last direct male representative of the de Warennes, for he left only a daughter, Isabel, to inherit his great possessions.

This Isabel de Warrene was, of course, a considerable heiress, and it is not surprising to find that she was twice married in a comparatively short space of time. Her first husband, William de Blois, earl of Morton (a natural son of King Stephen), was created earl of

3. *Victoria History of Norfolk*, Vol. II., p. 391.

Warene and Surrey for life, and died in 1160. His successor was Hameline or Hamlyn Plantagenet, natural son of Jeffrey, earl of Anjou, who in his turn was created earl of Warene by Henry II., and who died in 1201, leaving one son by Isabel de Warene—William, called by Blomefield *fifth* earl of Warene and Surrey. The new earl was twice married, first to Maud, daughter of the earl of Arundel, and secondly to another Maud, daughter of Anselme or William⁴ Mareschall, earl of Pembroke, and widow of Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk. Blomefield tells us that “in the year 1206 this Earl William owed King John a palfrey, as a fine for not being a judiciary of the Cinque-ports; and in the 9th of that King, he and the Archbishop of Canterbury paid a fine that their Knights should not go over into Poitou. In the 1st of Henry III., there being some difference between the King and him, a truce was made between them for 8 days, from the feast of St. Tiberias and Valerius, before the Pope’s legate, and several noblemen of the King’s Council, at Chichester; and he was appointed in the 4th of that King, to meet the King of Scots at Berwick, and to conduct him to York, where the King of England was to meet him; and in his 9th year he accounted for the profits of Surrey and Sussex.”⁵

This fifth earl was one of the judges of Hubert de Burgh at Cornhill, on the eve of St. Martin, 17 Henry III.,⁶ and was also appointed one of his keepers when he was imprisoned in the Castle of Devizes.

In 1234 we find him making “request to the abbot and convent of St. Edmund’s to lend (him) their great sapphire, which King John had from their house in his lifetime, and the king mainprises for him that he shall restore it to the king without difficulty at their order.”⁷

In June of the same year the king sent an order to each of the constables of certain castles on the coast to deliver them into the charge of William, earl of Warene and William, earl of Ferrars, to hold for the king, “more especially because it has been provided by the council and agreed by the king, that all castles on the sea coast not in the king’s hands should be taken into them by reason of the truce with the king of France, which has expired in this term of Midsummer, to avoid possible dangers and losses.”⁸

This William, fifth earl Warene and Surrey, died in 1240, the

4. See *Calender of Patent Rolls*, Henry III.

5. Blomefield, Vol. IV., p. 385.

6. *Pat. Roll*, 17 Henry III., m. 9d.

7. *Ibid.*, 18 Henry III., m. 15.

8. *Ibid.*, m. 9.

prior and sub-prior of Lewes being his executors.⁹ By his second wife he left two children, John, who succeeded him as sixth earl, and a daughter Isabella. The boy was a minor, and became the king's ward. Henry III. seems to have granted out his lands for terms of years to various persons, for instance, in his 26th year all the lands in Surrey and Sussex were bestowed upon Peter de Sabaudia, "the king's uncle," for ten years.¹⁰ His mother, the Countess Maud, received a grant of all the lands in Norfolk and Yorkshire, "to hold at farm at the following rents to the Exchequer:—Manor of Gimingham, £94 4s. 4d.; of Acre, £41 12s. 6d.; of Marham, £4 12s. 8½d.; of Tefford (Thetford), £30 13s. 4d.; of Wakefield and Cuniburgh, £244 15s. 8d., according to their extent and £100 yearly for increment."¹¹ The importance of the manor of Gimingham is shown over and over again by the fact that it usually ranks first in any list of the de Warenne's Norfolk possessions, and seems to have been of far greater monetary value than the others.

The Countess Maud did not enjoy her grant for very long, for she died in 1248.

Meanwhile the king was administering the family estates during earl John's minority. In 1245 (16 Jan.), a grant is made to Ama-deus, Count of Savoy, "that the king will marry one of the daughters of the count's daughter, whom he shall send to England, either to John de Warenne, who will be earl of Warenne, or to Edmund de Lacy, who will be earl of Lincoln, who are boys in the ward of the king."¹² The proposed match with John de Warenne did not come to anything, and he eventually married Alice, daughter of Hugh le Brun, earl of March.

By the year 1248 the king had committed his lands to earl John, although he was not yet of full age, and before long he had become a leading figure in public affairs. On 4 May, 1254, he was one of those who received a protection to go "with the queen to the king in Gascony,"¹³ and a year later we find him amongst the envoys sent "to conduct to the king's presence Alexander, king of Scotland and Margaret his wife, and those they will bring with them."¹⁴ On this occasion his colleagues were amongst the noblest in the land, viz., "Geoffrey de Lezignan and William de Valencia, the king's

9. *Ibid.*, 26 Hen. III., pt. 1, m. 12.

10. *Ibid.*

11. *Ibid.*, m. 10.

12. *Ibid.*, 30 Hen. III., m. 8.

13. *Ibid.*, 38 Hen. III., m. 5d. Others of the party were "Master Henry, the Surgeon; Master William, cook of Edmund, the king's son; Master William, the Queen's cook; and Alice de Luton, nurse of Edward."

14. *Pat. Roll*, 39 Hen. III., pt. 2, m. 4.

brothers, Roger le Bygod, earl of Norfolk and Marshall of England, William de Fortibus, earl of Albemarle and Edmund de Lacy."

The Patent Rolls of the period are full of allusions to John de Warenne, and there are several protections to him "going beyond seas," as, for instance, in 1257, when he went with the earl of Cornwall "king of the Romans to Almain," and in December, 1260, on sailing in the service of "Edward, the King's son."

On several occasions he was called upon to treat on behalf of the king with Llewelin, son of Griffin, of Wales, and in the struggle between the king and the barons de Warenne whole-heartedly threw in his lot with the royal cause. During de Montfort's triumph the earl, and the king's brother William de Valencia, attempted an armed landing in Wales (1265), for which act their lands were forfeited. Complaint is made in June of that year that de Warenne and his confederates have drawn "Edward the king's son, whom alas they have found credulous and easy to deceive, to join their party, contrary to his oath; the king requires the bishops of the province of Canterbury to excommunicate the said rebels." After the fall of de Montfort, earl John was the recipient of many grants of lands and franchises, some of them the forfeited holdings of traitors.¹⁵

The battle of Evesham was fought on 4th August, 1265, and from that date onwards until his death, de Warenne filled a great place in the realm.

In 1276 we find a commission sworn to enquire into the value of the tolls paid yearly in the earl's fairs and markets by the men and tenants of R., archbishop of Canterbury, and of the prior and convent of Christ Church, these dues having been remitted by Edward I. as a repayment in part of a large sum owed by the earl to Henry III. for a trespass committed by him. Amongst the Norfolk markets we find Castleacre and *Trunk* (as it is there written), the latter being the market for the Soke of Gimingham.

In 1278 the earl is again one of those deputed to escort Alexander III., king of Scotland, to visit Edward I., and very frequently we find him in Wales or in Scotland on the king's business, notably in 1290, when he was twice in Scotland, as proctor for Prince Edward, touching a contract of marriage with Margaret, queen of Scotland. A few days later he was appointed proctor by the king "to treat with Eric, king of Norway, touching the contract of espousals of marriage." In 1293-4 many prosecutions occur in the Patent Rolls of poachers who have hunted in the earl's parks and warrens in Surrey and Sussex, killing one of his foresters, during his *two years absence in Scotland*.

15. See the *Patent Rolls* of the period.

In 1295 earl John was appointed to the "custody of the sea coast, with power to compel persons to assist in the defence when necessary," and in September, 1296, we find him described as "keeper of the realm and land of Scotland." Amongst the many mandates addressed to him at this period is one dated 13 October, 1296, directing him to find a Church in the realm of Scotland for one "Gilbert de Grymesby, king's clerk, who carried the banner of St. John of Beverly to the king in Scotland."

December of the following year found the earl appointed "captain of the present expedition against the Scots, who have invaded the realm," and in March, 1298, king Edward sends a letter to "his faithful subjects serving with earl Warenne in the parts of Scotland, notifying his arrival from Flanders, thanking them for their zeal in his service, and announcing (that he is) hastening towards them."

His next important appointment was that of envoy to treat with Philip of France in March, 1301, touching the Scottish depredations.

His services to the Crown received recognition in many ways, for instance, in 1302 he obtained a grant of the marriage of the heirs of Richard, earl of Arundel, who were "minors in the king's custody."

On 15 November of the same year a commission is directed to "John le Bretun and Richard de Walsingham, touching the persons who, with a multitude of armed men, horse and foot, entered at divers times the park of John de Warenne at Gyvingham, co. Norfolk, and his chace and warrens there and at Melewood, Thetford, Castleacre, and Sculthorp, while he was on the king's service in Scotland . . . hunted therein, took deer, hares and rabbits, and fished in his fisheries at Gyvingham, Melewoode, and Rodemere, and carried away fish."

In such a full and active life earl John can have found but little time to enjoy his vast English and Welsh estates. He occasionally stayed in his Norfolk manors, for we know that on 13th March, 1285, Edward I. visited him at Gimingham,¹⁶ and again at Castleacre on 31st January, 1297.¹⁷

At his death he left many debts behind him, and the detailed list of them includes the following items:—

"£140 due to Leo, Jew of York.

"£100 for the rescue of a felon.

"£35 10s., remainder of the aids for knighting the king and for marrying his sister.

16. Harrod, *Castles and Convents*, p. 227.

17. Blomefield, VIII., p. 359.

" £108, debts to Jews.

" £120, scutage of Wales in the 5th year (and ditto in the 10th year).

" £20, for the flight of Henry de Crane, his retainer.

" £20 for the enlargement of his warren without licence. (? Gimmingham).

" £20, for unjust detention.

" £20, for trespass of venison.

" £105, received from John de Kirkely sometime sheriff of Northumberland, for wages of men then staying at the defence of Berewyk."¹⁸

As we have seen, this earl John married Alice, daughter of Hugh le Brun, earl of March, " sister by the mother to Henry III." Blomefield tells us that by her he had one son, William, who predeceased his father in 1286. He had married Joan, daughter of Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, and left a son, John, who became heir to his grandfather. Some confusion has been caused by the fact that the Patent Roll Calendars everywhere speak of this younger John as " nephew and kinsman " to the elder earl John. For example, in 1307, when Edward I. grants a " pardon to John de Warenne, earl of Surrey, *nephew* and heir of John de Warenne, of all the debts wherein the latter is certified by the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer to have been bound " to the tune of £6,693 6s. 10¹/₄d.¹⁹ I take it that the compiler of the Calendar has wrongly translated " nepos," which can be rendered either as *nephew* or as *grandson*.

On the other hand, a careful study of the Calendars seems to show that earl John the elder had a brother named William, who quite possibly *might* have been the father of the second John de Warenne.

Although the new earl John was still a minor on the death of his grandfather (or uncle) in 1304, he soon began to play his part in public affairs. He went to France with the king in 1308, and two years later he was chosen with several others to enforce order amongst those summoned to attend the Parliament at Westminster. In January, 1311, he is released and discharged " of his bond for the custody of Edward de Balliolo, whom in obedience to the king's command he has delivered into the custody of John de Weston, steward of the household of the king's brothers."

He was appointed in August, 1312, to the office of " Conseruator of the Peace for Surrey."

In his earlier years the earl was a bitter opponent of the king's favourite, Piers Gaveston, his hatred, no doubt, dating from the day

18. *Pat. Rolls*, 35 Ed. I., m. 33.

19. *Pat. R.*, 35 Ed. I., m. 37, etc.

in 1307 when the Gascon courtier had held a tournament at Wallingford in which "all the honours of the day fell to himself and his young friends, discomfiture and humiliation being allotted to the Earls of Hereford, of Warenne, and of Arundel, some of the biggest men of the land. Such reckless folly could not fail to bring its own Nemesis."²⁰

De Warenne helped to bring about the banishment of Gaveston in 1308, and although they were subsequently reconciled for a short time, it was not long before their animosity revived, and in the end the earl was one of the nobles who accepted Gaveston's final surrender at Scarborough, and was even amongst those held responsible for his violent death.²¹

After Gaveston's eclipse earl Warenne found himself free to support the king or not as he chose, and we see him occasionally siding with Thomas of Lancaster and his adherents, and afterwards taking the part of Edward II. for a season.

In 1317 an unfortunate scandal threw Lancaster and Surrey into open war, for on 6th May, Alice (de Lacy), Countess of Lancaster, had "eloped from her unfaithful husband, to find a protector at Reigate in Earl Warenne."²² It seems likely that the huge grant of lands and franchises made to Thomas of Lancaster by John de Warenne in 1319 may have had something to do with this scandalous event of two years before.

Subsequently de Warenne adhered to the royal cause, and in March, 1325, he agrees to go for the king to Gascony with a hundred men at arms, and to stay there for half a year. In May of the following year he is appointed "captain and principal surveyor of the arrays of men at arms, knights and others, with power to punish wrong doers," and "to lead the levies of men between 15 and 60 against any foe that may land in those parts and to select from the men at arms mounted or foot sufficient men to guard the counties and a certain number to go on the king's service for the defence of the realm for the counties of York, Northumberland, Westmoreland, Lancaster, Nottingham, and Derby."²³

In the king's final flight, in 1326, the earls of Surrey and Arundel were the only great nobles who remained with their fallen sovereign.²⁴

None the less John de Warenne is amongst those who attended

20. Sir J. H. Ramsay, *The Genesis of Lancaster*, Vol. I., p. 8.

21. *Pat. R.*, 7 Edw. II., pt. 1, m. 12.

22. Sir J. H. Ramsay, *The Genesis of Lancaster*, Vol. I., p. 86.

23. *Pat. Roll*, 19 Ed. II., pt. 2, m. 9.

24. *The Genesis of Lancaster*, Vol. I., p. 156.

the Coronation of Edward III., and he was one of the four earls nominated to the Council of Regency.²⁵

On 28th March, 1327, a general pardon was granted to John de Warenne, Robert de Reppes, knight, and many others, and in the following April the earl was charged with a mission to Scotland for the new king. In succeeding years de Warenne was the recipient of many royal grants, and he seems to have undertaken sundry money transactions on behalf of the king. On 12th December, 1328, a promise is given "to the merchants of the society of the Bardi of Florence, to pay them, by assignment in places most convenient to them, the 500 marks which by the king's command they paid to John de Warenne, the king's kinsman, tenant in chief, to whom the king was indebted in that sum by bill signed with the seal of Richard de Bury, keeper of the wardrobe." This is followed by a "mandate to the Sheriffs of Lincolnshire, Kent, Hants, and the collectors of the customs of wool, hides, and wool fells in Sandwich to pay them (each) 50 marks."²⁶

In September, 1329, earl Warenne is granted 2,000 marks "as a gift at the Exchequer, out of the profits of wardships, marriages, and escheats,"²⁷ and in June of the next year we read that he has been "lately granted, during the minority of the heir, the custody of two parts of the possessions of Thomas Bardolph, tenant in chief, at a yearly rent of 300 marks," and it is enacted "that he shall hold the same without payment, in part satisfaction of the above gift of 2,000 marks."²⁸

In subsequent years the royal grants to the earl include:—

1333, 7th March. "Grant to John de Warenne, as a special grace in return for his long service to the king's progenitors and the king, that after his death his executors shall have free administration of his goods to dispose thereof according to his last will."

28th July. "Pardon, in consideration of service to the king and especially of his great charges in the siege of Berwick and the war of Scotland, of all debts required of him by summons of the Exchequer."

1346, 5th March. "Pardon . . . for homicides, felonies, robberies, larcenies, and trespasses in England, whereof he is appealed."

He filled many public offices. In August, 1338, he was overseer of the commissioners appointed "to keep the peace and to defend the realm against invasion" in Southampton, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent. In 1339 he is styled "Keeper of

25. *Ibid.*, p. 185. There were also four prelates and six barons.

26. *Pat. Roll*, 2 Ed. III., pt. 2, m. 4.

27. *Ibid.*, m. 22.

28. *Ibid.*, 4 Ed. III., pt. 1, m. 17.

the Coast," in Sussex, and on 3rd July of that year a commission of enquiry is sent to him, as sheriff for Surrey and Sussex, "in view of the late entry of the castle of Hastingges by the foreign foe who entered the port."

In 1341 he was "Warden of the March of Scotland," and his full style and title was—John de Warenne, earl of Warenne, Surrey and Stratherne, and lord of Bromfield and Yale, co. Denbigh.

So much for the last earl Warenne as a public character, but what most concerns us is his relations with Norfolk. The Patent Rolls tell us of his appointments of rectors, and of various poaching affrays at Gimingham, but on the whole earl John the second does not seem to have been closely connected with his Norfolk estates.

During his minority the king held the Church patronage, and on 1st April, 1305, he presented Oliver de Wysete or Wissete to the Church of South Repps. The new rector was an adherent of the de Warenne family, and with Henry de Percy and brother John de Bourne had been an executor of the late earl's will.²⁹

A curious grant in 1310 gives to the young earl "the prise of falcons at Lenne (Lynn) and Jernemuthe" (Yarmouth) for one year.

The case of the miscreants who broke into the park and warren of Gimingham, Methwold, and elsewhere in the late earl's time recurs in the Rolls year after year, which looks as if the authorities had failed to catch the poachers!

On 15th April, 1311, John de Warenne obtains a licence for the alienation in mortmain "to Master William de Warennia, parson of the Church of North Repps, of a messuage and $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in that place."³⁰

The manor of Sculthorpe had been granted by his grandfather to Sir Walter de Norwyco and Katharine his wife, and in a confirmation of the same, dated 6th August, 1316, we get the names of Henry de Sidestrond and Robert de Reppes as witnesses. On 28th December of that year Robert de Reppes is pardoned "for acquiring in fee from John de Warrene the manor of Hillington and £10 2s. 9½d. of rent in Grymston, Congham, Geyton, and Stybridde, and the advowson of the Church of Stybridde." Blomefield notes that, at a later date, in 22 Edward II. (sic) John de Warenne "granted to Robert de Repps, his valet, a parcel of waste ground in the manor of South Repps, near the messuage of Robert, to enlarge it."³¹ We have seen already that Robert de Reppes, knight, shared with his lord the general pardon on the accession of Edward III. On

29. *Pat. Roll*, 34 Ed. I., m. 39.

30. *Ibid.*, 4 Ed. II., pt. 2, m. 13.

31. Blomefield, Vol. VIII., p. 150.

15th August, 1327, de Repps received another pardon for acquiring land in South Repps without licence from earl Warenne.

The last of the de Warennes, like his predecessors, was a patron and supporter of Castleacre Priory, and in 1328 he obtained a licence for the prior and convent to appropriate the Church of South Creak, of which they had the advowson. Three years later he does the same for the prior and canons of Thetford, who wish to appropriate the church of Gresham, which until that time had been in his own gift.

The great de Warenne Cluniac foundation at Lewes was an "alien Priory," but owing to the de Warenne influence it escaped sequestration during the French wars, the earl being granted its advowsons, knights' fees, etc., during the time that it was "in the king's hands."

Thanks to the Patent Roll Calendars, it is possible to get fragmentary details of the lives of the de Warennes. We can read of Janotus, the last earl's falconer, and of John de Lincoln, of the Order of the Preachers, who, while in his company, "fears that he is in bodily danger from some of his enemies," and who is granted a protection "for his good service, and the great affection which the king has for him."

They throw light, too, on the second earl John's rather unsuccessful matrimonial career.

He had married Joan de Bar, daughter of Henry, earl of Barr, and niece of Edward II. (for her mother was a daughter of Edward I.). The marriage was an unfortunate one, and in 1316 we find de Warenne suing for a divorce, on the ground of a pre-contract made between him and a certain Matilda or Maud de Nerford or Narford. The lady in question was probably a near neighbour of the earl's at Castleacre, for Narford is only a few miles further down the valley of the Nar. Be that as it may, both guilty parties obtained divorces from their respective partners on the same grounds of "pre-contract," and possibly sundry grants of land made by the earl about this time to Thomas and Edmund de Nerford were sops to the deserted husband and his family. Meanwhile, Dame Joan, the king's niece, is to receive an annuity of "740 marks a year of land in the towns of Grantham and Gretewelle," co. Lincoln, and "the earl is to be discharged from his recognisance of 200*l.* for the sustenance of Dame Joan and the cost of his plea." (24th Feb., 1316). In the following August the earl makes a settlement of certain manors in Yorkshire upon Matilda for life, with remainder for life to their sons John de Warenne and Thomas de Warenne.³² It is doubtful

32. Possibly these were the John and Thomas de Nerford who occur elsewhere in the Patent Rolls.

if the earl ever married their mother and no *Matilda, Countess of Warenne*, is mentioned in the Patent Rolls, on the other hand, Joan de Barr continued to use that title until her death. She evidently lived much abroad, for there are continual licences granted to her on going beyond the seas, or in extension of her sojourn out of England.

Blomefield states that the earl married as his second wife Isabel de Houland, and in June and December, 1346, we find him making grants of land to her.³³ In the Patent Rolls she is called the daughter of Robert and Maud de Holande. Matilda was dead,³⁴ but Countess Joan was still alive, and altogether the earl's matrimonial arrangements were not of the happiest, for he left no legitimate heir, only his sons by Matilda. From time to time he settled lands on William de Warenne, his son, notably the manor and advowson of Beeston Regis, with land in East and West Runton. In November, 1345, he is styled William de Warenne, *knight*. Meanwhile his two brothers John and Thomas had "taken the religious habit in the order of the brethren of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, at Clerkenwell."³⁵

Since this John de Warenne was the last of his race, and had no one to whom he could lineally bequeath his lands, he indulged in various land transactions during his lifetime, raising money by means of grants of property which only reverted to the purchaser on his death. The most interesting of these settlements took place in January, 1319, when he obtained licence to enfeoff Thomas, earl of Lancaster, "of his manors of Gyvingham, Beston (Beeston Regis), Thefford (Thetford), and Methwold, the hundreds of Gallowe and Brothercross, and 39 knight's fees, and a fourth part of a fee," in fifty-one Norfolk and two Essex parishes, as well as "the advowsons of the churches of Suthreppes, Northreppes, Thrymyngham, Munesle (Mundesley), Edyesthorpe (Edingthorpe), Bradefeld, Swatfeld (Swafeld), and Beston, of the abbey of Marham, and priory of the canons of Thefford, of the hospitals of God's House of Thefford, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John there, and of a moiety of the church of Aylmerton,"³⁶ besides castles, townships, and lands in Suffolk, Sussex, Yorkshire, Wales, Somerset, Dorset, and Wiltshire. This important grant was the origin of the future Duchy of Lancaster

33. Blomefield, VIII., p. 360, and *Pat. Rolls*, 20 Ed. III., pt. 3, m. 5.

34. Matilda was dead in 1345, see *Pat. Rolls*, 19 Ed. III., pt. 3, m. 9.

35. I cannot say if John Waryn, vicar of Castleacre in 1329 was one of these, but William de Warren, who was Prior there after 1337 was earl John's illegitimate brother. In 1348 there are complaints of a renegade monk of Castleacre of that name, who, with Robert de Neketon, another Cluniac monk of the same convent, "spurned the habit of the order and are now vagabonds." The prior, Walter Picot, applies for their arrest and chastisement "after the rule and discipline of the order."—*Pat. Rolls*, 1348, etc.

36. *Pat. Roll*, 12 Ed. II., pt. 1, m. 4.

holdings in Norfolk. The earl retained in his own hands the stronghold of Castleacre, but only for a few years, for in 1335 he makes a grant of it on similar terms to Richard, earl of Arundel.³⁷

To the Church he appears to have been liberal, and the following grant is typical of others :—

“ 1335. June 7. Whereas John de Warenne lately granted to Edmund de Gonevill, clerk, the site of a hospital in Thefford, called “ le Meson Dieu,” with all lands pertaining thereto in Thefford, Croxton, Fouldone, and elsewhere, which the said Edmund afterwards surrendered to him ; and whereas he afterwards granted it to the prior provincial of the Friars Preachers in England and the friars of the order whom the latter intended to settle there, the said site limited by certain bounds and devises, for certain chantries and daily remembrances specified in the grant ; the king has confirmed ” the surrender and licences “ the Friars to build a dwelling-house,” etc. This is followed by the confirmation of another grant of lands and rents “ to find two of the canons as chaplains to celebrate divine service daily in the house of the canons at Thefford for the soul of the first founder of the hospital, and food and hospitality for 13 poor persons,” etc.³⁸

On 13th October, 1346, earl John is exempted from attendance “ at parliaments and councils against his will,” as he is “ now too feeble to work,” provided that a competent deputy take his place. He was still living in March, 1347, but on 8th August of that year, we find the king granting to his son Edmund of Langley, the castles and lands north of Trent, which had come to his hands “ on the death of John de Warenne, earl of Surrey,” but owing to Edmund’s tender years his mother, queen Philippa, is to have the custody of them, and Joan de Bar, the earl’s divorced wife, is to have £200 a year out of the estates.³⁹

On the death of the last earl the enormous possessions of the de Warennes were finally dispersed, the greater bulk of them (including Gimingham), passing to the House of Lancaster.

The de Warennes bore arms : Chequer *or* et *azure*, in 2nd and 3rd quarter on a canton *ermine*, a lion rampant. These arms were formerly in Sidestrand Church, as were those of Poynings and Erpingham.⁴⁰

37. *Pat. Roll*, 9 Ed. III., pt. 1, m. 12.

38. *Ibid.*, pt. 2, m. 26.

39. *Ibid.*, 21 Ed. III., pt. 2, m. 5.

40. Harl. M.S.S. 901, quoted *North Erpingham*, p. 371. They are given there as : “ Warren : Checkes or et azur all over the feilde.”

THE FEUDAL TENANTS.

The de Warennnes were tenants in chief for the whole Soke of Gimmingham, and below them in the feudal scale were several knightly *mesne* tenants, and under them again came the free tenants, sokemen and bondmen of the manor.

I have not space to give the history of each of these families at any length, and the reader must be content with very brief accounts which I have had to compress from my large bundles of MS. notes.

The principal families connected with the Soke were the de Plays or Plaiz, of Knapton, the de Poynings of Sidestrand, the de Repps of North and South Repps, and the Spriggys of Mundesley. All of them were enfeoffed of the de Warennnes, the de Plays and de Poynings being also the earl's tenants in the Hundred of Grimshoe, where they held respectively the adjoining manors of Weeting, and Hockwold and Wilton.

Feudalism in its essence " was a Land League formed upon a basis of mutual protection, with a king-in-chief. . . . As may be supposed, the principal feature of the system consisted in the obligation of the vassal to protect his lord and aid him in fight, with the corresponding security of receiving protection from him. . . . This obligation of war at first unlimited, or at any rate ill-defined, gradually grew by arrangement and composition, into a fixed service of a knight for every holding sufficient to support a knight. The area of land that would suffice for the purpose varied, for there are lands and lands; but it has usually been taken at about four or five hides, and the annual value was fixed at 20*l*.¹ The knight was bound to serve the lord in arms, if required, for a period not exceeding forty days in each year, and his tenure and obligation was called the Knight's Fee.

Both the de Plays and de Poynings were tenants of this class, the former holding their manor in Knapton " by the service of knight's fee," whilst the latter's manor in Sidestrand is described as " the third part of a knight's fee." The de Repps', on the other hand, were not military tenants, but held their lands in free socage, which carried with it certain services and dues in lieu of knightly service.

1. Dowell, *History of Taxes and Taxation in England*. The extent of the hide or carucate varied in different localities, but Mr. Dowell considers that the normal hide was about 100 to 120 acres, therefore the average knight's fee was probably just under or just over 500 acres.

The Spriggys of Mundesley were a less notable family, and do not appear to have attained to knightly rank. Their small manor was held, however, by military tenure, although at the date when mention of them first occurs, in 1286, their obligations had been commuted by a payment of 3s. *scutage* or shield money, and a rent of 8s. *per annum*.

DE PLAYS OR PLAIZ, OF WEETING, KNAPTON, etc.

From very early times the "ancient and noble family" of de Plays held the manor of Knapton. They also held that of Weeting, in Grimshoe Hundred, where they "kept" Weeting Castle for earl Warrene,² the tenant-in-chief. Their estates were not limited to the county of Norfolk, for they held a large amount of land in other parts of England, notably in Essex, Cambridgeshire and Sussex.

The exact relation of the Knapton holding to the de Warennes is hard to define. Knapton had two manors, one of which was parcel of the Soke of Gimingham, the other and larger one being independent of the Soke. Norris conjectures that this independent manor was part of Roger Bigod's estates, and "that it passed from the Bigods in the same manner as Sutton in the Hundred of Happing to the family of Monchensy, some (of) whom enfeofed therein the antient and noble family of the Playses, this I gather from the Escheat Roll of 17 Edw. 2nd, N. 75 upon the death of Audomar de Valence, E. of Pembroke (who was descended from the heiress of Munchensy) in which Roll amongst the Fees then held of Audomar, the manor of Cnapeton, in Norf: is there said to be one."³

The de Plays, however, were most certainly military tenants of the de Warennes as numerous documents can prove. To take an example from an Inquisition dated 24 Henry III., "Hæred' de Plaiz tenuit in Knapton unum feodum milit' de Comite Surry ut de honore de Lewes, et idem honor de Rege."⁴

They were also "tenants in chief" for part of Knapton, as will be seen subsequently, so we may fairly assume that the de Plays' estate in Knapton comprised both the manor pertaining to the de Warrene's Soke of Gimingham, and also the independent manor which probably had come to them through the Monchensys.

Weeting was the principal seat of the de Plays in Norfolk, but they appear to have stayed at Knapton from time to time.

Curiously enough, the history of the family begins and ends with a *John de Plays*. The first John occurs as a witness to a charter of

2. Near the east end of the Church of Weeting are the remains of the castle in which they lived, built by William de Warrene in the eleventh century.

3. Norris. *Knapton*. (Rye MS.).

4. *N. Exp.*, p. 107.

William de Warenne's founding the small Priory of Slevesholm, near Methwold. He was most probably the father of Sir Hugh de Plays, who acquired the Weeting fee through his marriage with Philippa, daughter and co-heiress of Richard de Monte Fixo or Montfitchete. Sir Hugh married as his second wife Beatrix de Say, who divorced him in 1236, after which he took a third wife named Alice. She survived him "and in 40 Hen. 3 released [to her stepson Richard] her right of Dower in Weeting and divers other manors."

Sir Hugh de Plays was the founder of the Priory of Bromhill or Bromwell, in the parish of Weeting, a house of Augustinian Canons dedicated to St. Mary and Saint Thomas the Martyr.⁵

Sir Hugh had three sons by his first wife Philippa, the eldest of whom, Richard, succeeded him. In spite of this fact we find Sir Richard in 40 Henry III. granting to his "*mother*, Alice, widow of Hugh de Plays," the homage and service of Thomas de Repples (? Reppes) for her life.⁶ He was a minor at the time of Sir Hugh's death, and is the first of a series of youthful heirs who succeeded to the de Plays' estates at an early age. The average life of a de Plays must have been unusually short, even for the period in which they lived, and we do not find a single head of the family attaining to anything approaching old age.

In the Aid levied in his 21st year (1237) by Henry III., "on marrying his sister to the King of the Romans," we find that *the heirs of de Plaiz* held a knight's fee in Knapton.⁷ However, Richard de Plays was of age in 1250, for in the Crown Plea Rolls for that year there is the following entry:—

"*De Valettis* (young gentleman of quality). They say that Richard de Plaiz holds a knight's fee, and is of full age, but is not yet a knight; therefore he is fined."⁸

Sir Richard [I.], like so many of his descendants, died almost before he had reached middle age, in 1269. He had married a wife, said to have been named Isabella, and by her had two sons. The elder of these, Ralph, was left to the custody of Robert de Aguillion, but the family weakness must have descended to him, for he seems to have died soon after his father. I take it that he left as his heir his son, Giles. Queen Eleanor had a grant of Ralph's lands in 1284,

5. "It was eventually granted to Cardinal Wolsey, and was intended by him as part of the endowment of his college at Ipswich, but was afterwards given to Christ's College, Cambridge, and was for a time the residence of John Shadwell, father of Thomas Shadwell, Poet Laureate under the Commonwealth, who was apparently brought here at about 14 years of age." Kelly's *Norfolk*, p. 491 (ed. 1900).

6. "Fines Diversor 'Com.', 40 Hen. III." *N. Erp.*, p. 138.

7. *N. Erp.*, p. 216.

8. *N. Erp.*, p. 218.

during the minority of his heirs, "together with the marriage of his heirs, saving to Isabella, late the wife of the said Ralph reasonable dower."⁹

In 1288 the king presents Hugh de Cressingham to the Church of Barneton, in Ely Diocese, owing to the minority of the heirs of de Plays. We learn from various contemporary sources, such as the Hundred Rolls (1275) and a Feodary Book of 20 Edward I., that the heirs of de Plays held a military fee in Knapton, with view of frank-pledge and assize of bread and ale.¹⁰

Sir Richard de Plays had left a second son named Richard, who is described by Norris as "heir to his eldest brother Ralph," and *father of Sir Giles*, who died before 1294. But this is manifestly a mistake, for the heirs of Ralph de Plays were in royal custody until 1288 or later, and in 1294-5 Giles de Plays was knighted and "summoned to attend the king," on September 1st, at Portsmouth, "in order to sail into Gascoyne to recover his inheritance."¹¹ He was summoned to Parliament in 1297. Sir Giles, like his predecessors, died young, probably in 1302. He left a six-year-old heir, Richard, by his wife, Joan Burgulio. On 29th December, 1302, there is a confirmation of a grant by Margaret, the Queen Consort, "of the custody of the lands and heirs of Giles de Playz, tenant-in-chief, with the marriage of the heirs, which she held by livery of the treasurer and escheator on this side Trent."¹² In July, 1305, William Howard and Alice, his wife, had custody of the manors of Knapton and Weeting "during the minority of the heirs,"¹³ and as late as 1307, 1309, and 1310, we find the King presenting rectors to Weeting, Chaggeley (Diocese of Chichester), and other benefices, as the heir is not yet of age. Meanwhile, Sir Giles de Plays's widow, Joanna, was guardian to their son, Richard, and in March, 1303, we find her appointing Robert de Elmham to the rectory of Knapton. Young de Plays came of age in 1317, and before very long he was off to the wars. In 1322 he has a protection granted to him "on going with Aymer de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke, to Scotland," and two years later (June, 1324) he goes with the same leader to Aquitaine. In September of the same year he has two other protections "on going with the king," and "on going with the king's son, Edward, Earl of Chester," and in 1325 yet another "on going with Mary, late wife of Aymer de Valencia, beyond the seas."

9. *Pat. R.*, 12 Ed. I., m. 16.

10. *N. Exp.*, pp. 222 and 234.

11. Blomefield, Vol. II., p. 160.

12. *Pat. Roll*, 31 Ed. I., m. 44.

13. *Ibid.*, 33 Ed. I., pt. 2, m. 19. "The Sheriff in 1315-16 returned the heir of . . . Plays as having a manor in Bradfield in the Hund. of Tunsted," Norris. *Knapton*.

Sir Richard de Plays held sundry public appointments, in 1324 he was supervisor of the levies for Cambridgeshire, in 1325 he was one of those responsible for the erection of beacons in Sussex, and in 1327 he was a Commissioner of the Peace for Cambridgeshire. He was a benefactor of the Abbey of St. Mary at Stratford, giving to it "all his tenements in East Ham in Essex."

His life was a short one, and he died "beyond seas" in 1327, at the early age of thirty-one. He had married Margaret, daughter of "Roger of Lancaster," and by her he left a son and heir, also named Richard. He died seised of many manors and fees, including "the third part of a knights fee in Sydstrond," held by Thomas Poynings. In the Subsidy Roll for 1 Edward III., we find Margaret, his widow, paying vs. in Knapton.

The heir was only five years old, so the king again had custody of the de Plays' lands. This time they were granted out in 1327 to Gilbert Talbot, the king's chamberlain. On 20 January, 1331, he receives a further grant "of the marriage of the heir of Richard de Plays." Meanwhile, in 1328, Richard de Waldegrave has obtained, at the request of H., bishop of Lincoln, all "that which pertains to the king of the marriage of Margaret, late the wife of Richard de Plaiz . . . that is, the fine of the marriage, or the forfeiture if she marry without licence." This third Sir Richard de Plays was a benefactor of the Church. In 1349 he alienated the living of Croxton to the Priory of Bromhill, and in 1353 he gave to the abbot and convent of St. Edmunds the advowson of Foulmere, co. Cambs., and to the abbot and convent of Stratford 10 acres of wood, 12 acres of heath, and £8 3s. 4d. of rent in East and West Ham, "in lieu of £8 10s. 0d. out of £10 rent." In the same year took place the following curious transaction with the Abbey of St. Edmunds. "April 30. Licence for the abbot, prior and convent of St. Edmund's to release to Richard Plaiz and his heirs a rent of 24½ quarters of wheat, 59 quarters, 1½ bushel, of barley malt, 4 quarters of peas or beans, 1,400 sheaves of heather (*bruere*),¹⁴ or 20 cartloads of straw, stubble or brushwood for roasting (*furnatione*), a quarter of an ox, half a flitch of pork, 1 goose, and 5 hens, and of finding for them for two weeks in the year six servants to brew at his costs, and fuel for brewing, which rent was of ancient time assigned to the portion of the prior and convent separate from the portion of the abbot, due from the said Richard by reason of his manor of Chelishworth, co. Suffolk."¹⁵ The third Sir Richard married Mary or Margaret, daughter of Sir Walter of Norwich, by whom he had one

14. I should render this as *brake* or *bracken* rather than *heather*.

15. *Pat. R.*, 27 Ed. III., pt. 3, m. 27.

son John, who proved to be the last male representative of the de Plays family.

The de Plays were a uniformly short-lived race, and again the heir was a minor when his father died in 1359. In 1361 we find "Margaret, who was the wife of Richard de Plays," holding in dower sundry knight's fees and parts of fees, "which the king had assigned of the knight's fee of her husband taken into the king's hands by his death." Amongst these we find mention of " $\frac{1}{4}$ part (of a fee) in Wetyng, held by Roger Potys," valued at 25s. a year, and " $\frac{1}{3}$ part in Sistronde, held by Michael de Ponynges at 33s. 4d."¹⁶

Anthony Norris tells us that Sir John Plays was eighteen years of age "at the death of his father, which happened in 1359 according to Dugdale, and in 1360 according to others. He was therefore of full age about 1362." John Plays was thus almost the same age as his patron John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who was born in 1340. We find several allusions to him in John of Gaunt's Register, 1372-1376. He was one of the Duke's followers, and on 28 March, 1373, there is a protection to "monsire Johan Plays . . . a aler nostre tres redoute seigneur et pierre le Roy (Edward III.) en ceste proschien viage en nostre compaignie."

Two years later Sir John de Yerdeburgh, "clerk of our great wardrobe," is instructed from the issues of his receipt to pay "Johan Plais en plein paiement de sa bille ensealte du seal sire Thomas Amcotes (treasurer of the household) trent un livres cink souldz oept deners." And in the same year (1375) Thomas Wombe, receiver in Norfolk and Suffolk, is bidden to send two letters of "monseigneur, l'une a monsire Johan Plays, et l'autre a Henry Rose."¹⁷

In 1379 Sir John lent Richard II. "20l. towards his wars,"¹⁸ "for the receipt of which there is an acknowledgment dated 6 of March."¹⁹ A few years later we find his name in the list of knights who accompanied John of Gaunt, in his second expedition to Castille in 1386. Sir John married Joan, daughter of Sir Miles Stapylton, of Ingham. Three years after assuming control of his estates, "John de Bois. cousin of Sir Miles Stapleton, and John Charman, parson of System, confirmed to Sir John de Playz, and Joan, his wife, and the heirs of their body, the lordship of Knapton and other places."²⁰ He presented William Smethe to the rectory of Knapton in 1371, and also made appointments to Walcot in 1383, to Eggemere in 1385, and as

16. *Close Roll*, 35 Ed. III., m. 21.

17. See *John of Gaunt's Register*, edited by S. Armitage-Smith. Nos. 49, 1675, and 1687.

18. Blomefield.

19. Norris.

20. Blomefield, Vol. VIII., p. 133.

“ feoffee in trust with others ” to the Mastership of Raveningham Chantry in 1375, 1380, and 1387.

His wife died in 1385, and was buried in the Priory Church of Ingham, where in Norris’s time “ a fragment of the Inscription, with the date thereof remains.” Sir John survived her until 1388, when he too died, leaving as his heiress, their only child, Margaret.

His will as given by Blomefield (Vol. II., p. 161) is as follows :

The Will of Sir John de Plays, “ dated on Thursday before the Feast of St. John Baptist, 1385, at Ocle-Magna in Essex ” “ proved on the 16th of July, 1389.”

“ He bequeaths his body to be buried in the priory of *Bromhill*, to which house he gives his whole suit of vestments, a cup and thurible of silver, two vials, an incense boat, and an osculatory of silver gilt ; to the prior and convent of *Walsingham*, his red vestment, and x. marks of silver ; to the prior and convent of *Bromholm*, his black vestment and x. marks of silver ; to the abbess and convent of *Marham*, to the priory and convent of *Wykes*, to the prioress and convent of *Heningham*, to the prioress and convent of *Thetford*, and to the prior and convent of *Ingham*, 25 l., viz., to each house, 100s. sterling ; to the repair of every Church in his patronage, 40s. ; to the Church of *St. Mary at Feltwell*, that of *Tofttrys*, *Chelesworth*, and *Stansted-Montfichet*, 4l., viz., to each 20s. and to Sir *William*, parson of the Church of *Knapton*, 20 l. of silver ; to Sir *John Lincoln*, clerk, *Simon Barret*, Sir *John*, vicar of *Wyndesore*, Sir *William*, parson of the Church of *St. Mary of Weting*, Sir *John Hoo*, his Chaplain, and *John Saustin*, 30 l. of silver, viz., to each 100s. ; to all the houses of *Fryers Mendicants* in the County of *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Essex*, and *Cambridgeshire*, to every house 5 marks ; to *Joan*, his wife, all his wardrobe, and all his silver vessels, with all his other utensils and ornaments, belonging to his house, not before bequeathed, with all other his goods and chattells in his Manors of *Knapton*, *Tofttrys*, and *Chelesworth* ; to Sir *William Beauchamp*, and Sir *John Marmion*, Knts., to each a silver cup with a cover, to be made new, weighing 10 lb. in gross ; to Sir *Stephen Hales*, *John de Burgh*, *Richard de Sutton*, Knts., and *Edmund Gurnay*,²¹ to each of them a new cup to be made of silver, with a cover, each of the weight of 10 marks in gross ; to his son *John Howard* (*Howard*) all his armour and furniture of war ; to the prisons of *Newgate* and *Ludgate* in *London*, *Norwich*, *Colchester*, *Hertford*, and *Cambridge*, 6l., viz., 20s. to each, to be distributed among the prisoners there ; and the residue of his goods and chattells (after his debts are paid and legacies are discharged) to be applied as his executors shall see most expedient, for

21. Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster in Norfolk. See Chapter VI.

some priest to pray for his soul, the souls of his father and mother, and all the faithful deceased; and he makes *Joan* his wife, *Sir John de Burgh*, *Sir Richard de Sutton*, Knts. *Henry*, parson of *Foulmer*, *William*, parson of the Church of *Knapton*,²² *John Hoo*, his Chaplain, *John Wyghton*, and *Robert Hamund*, his executors."

(Regr. Braybrooke Ep. Lond. fol. 399).

Margaret, Sir John de Plays' heiress, became the wife of Sir John Howard, ancestor of the Dukes of Norfolk. He inherited in her right the lordships of Knapton, Weeting, and Toftrees, in Norfolk; Chelsworth in Suffolk; Okeley Magna, Hunstead and Benefield Bury in Essex, and Foulmere in Cambridgeshire. Blomefield tells us that the windows of St. Anne's Chapel in Fersfield Church "were glazed by Sir John Howard, Knight, whose effigies remained in the east window when Mr. Weaver published his book; (see fol. 851); and it is very plain from the arms about it (which were preserved in the pedigree of the Howards) that it was that Sir John who married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Plais. . . . The Third Coat," in Blomefield's illustration of the window, "is Howard quartered with Plais, being his own and his wife's coat."²³

Sir John Howard had one son, also named John, who married Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Walton (afterwards the wife of Sir Thomas Erpingham, Knight of the Garter). This second John Howard "died young on a journey to the Holy Land in 1410," and his daughter Elizabeth succeeded her grandfather, the elder Sir John. She married John de Vere, earl of Oxford, who became "lord in her right." He was beheaded in 1461. In 1465 she presented Richard Chantry to the rectory of Knapton. Evidently, as a woman, she found it hard in that stormy period to manage her estates herself, and in 1473 we find her settling the lordships of Knapton, Weeting, etc., "on Richard, Duke of Gloucester, King Edward IV.'s brother, in trust, for the use of her heirs, to preserve them in these difficult and dangerous times." She evidently put her trust in the wrong person, for six years later the Duke "confirmed to the dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of St. George, at Windsor," the manor of Knapton, "with those of Chelsworth, and Benefield Hall, to endow a Chantry in the said Church."²⁴

On the accession of Henry VII. her son John, earl of Oxford, "was restored in blood and honour." He was succeeded by his nephew, another John, earl of Oxford, who left no heir male, so the property passed to his three sisters—Elizabeth, wife of Sir Anthony Wingfield of Letheringham, Suffolk; Dorothy, wife of John Nevill,

22. William Smithe, rector, 1371—1392.

23. Blomefield, Vol. I., p. 106.

24. Blomefield, VIII., p. 133.

Lord Latimer; and Ursula, wife of Sir Edward Knightley. Lady Knightley died without issue, thus the heirs of Wingfield and Nevill became co-heirs of Knapton and other lordships. The Wingfield moiety appears to have been dispersed into "many parcels," and sold during the reign of Elizabeth. Lord Latimer's share went, on his death, in 1577, to the earl of Exeter, son of his daughter Dorothy, who had married William Cecil, Lord Burleigh.

There is still a Manor of *Knapton-Cecils*, now held by Lord Suffield. The second manor of *Knapton-Bromholme*, or *Green*, was no doubt that held by the Wingfields, and to it was attached the advowson of Knapton Church.

DE PLAYS OR PLAIZ.

(Arms: Per Pale *or* and *gules* a lion passant *argent*—Norris).

Gilbert de Monte Fixo or Montfichet,
"Kinsman and companion of the Conqueror."

Richard de Montfichet = Milisent.

Sir John Plays. Witness to earl Warenne's charter of Stevesholm. =

i.e. PHILIPPA (1) = SIR HUGH DE PLAYS = (2) Beatrix de Say
(3) Alice . . .

SIR RICHARD DE PLAYS = Isabella
d. 1269.

Ralph
Hugh,
Benefactor of Bromhill
Priory, 1245.

RALPH DE PLAYS. b. circa 1266, ward of Robert de Aguillion. d. young. Queen Eleanor had a grant of his lands and Church patronage in 1284, "during the minority of his heirs." *Pat. R.* 12, Edward I., M.16. = Isabella his widow in 13 Edw. I.

Richard
Joan
(See Norris).

SIR GILES DE PLAYS = Joan, da. of
d. 1302. Burgulis.

SIR RICHARD DE PLAYS = Margaret, sister and heir of John, and da. of Roger of Lancaster. (Both Sir Richard and his wife were buried at the Blackfriars, Ipswich).
b.c. 1295, d. 1327.

SIR RICHARD DE PLAYS = Mary (or Margaret)
b.c. 1322, d. "beyond seas," 1359. Ward of Sir Gilbert Talbot. = da. of Sir Walter de Norwich.

Joan = c. 1346, Sir Ralph Shelton, of Shelton, Co. Norf.

SIR JOHN DE PLAYS = Joan, da. of Sir Miles Stapleton, of Ingham,
b.c. 1341, d. 1388. d. 1383.

MARGARET DE PLAYS = Sir John Howard, Kt., ancestor of the Dukes of Norfolk, d. at Jerusalem, 1389.
d. 1391.

DE POYNINGS, OF HOCKWOLD, WILTON, SIDESTRAND, etc. I have dealt already with the Poynings family in my history of Sidestrand,²⁵ so my account of them here must be short.

Both the de Warennes and the de Poynings were south country families, who also held lands in Norfolk and other counties. The de Poynings were military tenants of the de Warennes in the Hundreds of Grimshoe and North Erpingham, and in each hundred their estates were adjacent to those of the de Plays. Hockwold and Wilton in the former are the next parishes to Weeting, and Sidestrand in the latter is but four or five miles from Knapton. Parts of Sidestrand and Knapton, too, were closely related in Domesday Book, as we have seen in a previous chapter, and together they formed one geldable unit. In early days the de Plays held the whole, but from 1269 onwards the de Poynings were enfeoffed of the Sidestrand portion, namely the third part of a knight's fee, and half the advowson of the Church.²⁶

Hockwold and Wilton came to the Poynings through the marriage of Sir Luke de Poynings with Isabell, third daughter of Sir Robert de Aguillon, who, it will be remembered, was the guardian of young Giles de Plays.

In 1272 Thomas de Poynings was the holder of the Sidestrand fee "which had been Sir Richard de Plays," and he appointed John de Howton to the rectory in 1306, and Richard de Heydon in 1309.

On 12th February, 1323, Thomas de Ponynge receives a protection on "going with the earl Warrene to the marches of Scotland,"²⁷ and another on 26th March, 1324, "on going with Edmund, earl of Kent, the King's brother, beyond the seas on the King's business."²⁸ In the following year he nominates Robert Cherbek and John Peverel as his attorneys for two years, as he is "staying on the King's service in the Duchy of Gascony."²⁹

In the Subsidy Roll for 1327 and 1333 we find *Thoma de Ponynge* paying xiijs. ijd. and xvs. in *Sidestrand*.

Thomas de Poynings finally lost his life in the King's service. Sir J. R. Ramsay and other authorities say that he fell in the naval battle of Sluys³⁰, June, 1340, but this is difficult to explain in the light of a grant dated 14th October, 1339, which is as follows:—

25. *Records of a Norfolk Village*, pp. 55-69.

26. In the Inquisition on the death of Richard de Plays, "the jury find that Adam de Poininges held (in Sidestrand) the 3rd part of a Knight's fee."—*N. Erp.*, p. 200.

27. *Pat. R.*, 16 Edw. II., pt. 1, m. 6.

28. *Ibid.*, 17 Edw. II., pt. 2, m. 20.

29. *Ibid.*, 18 Edw. II., pt. 2, m. 31.

30. *The Genesis of Lancaster*, Vol. I., p. 280.

"In consideration of the great merits of Thomas de Ponynghes, Knight, who met his death in his service, and the affection which he had for him, the King has taken the fealty of his son and heir, Michael de Ponynghes, although he is still under age, granting to him the lands he would have had if of full age, which ought to pertain to the King by reason of his minority, with all issues from the day of his father's death. He has granted also that he may select the person whom he will marry with the King's advice herein, so that he will have the marriage which should also belong to the King."³¹—"Thomas de Ponynghes, *deceased*," occurs too in a grant of a mill and a meadow under Oxford Castle by the King to Reginald de Colham in October, 1339, and it speaks of the holding being granted formerly to de Poynings for his service to the King's brother, John, late earl of Cornwall.³²

Sir Michael de Poynings fought in the victorious campaign of Crécy, 1346, and in July, 1347, he and many others are granted a pardon "for good service in the wars of France."

Blomefield tells us that about 1347 Edward III. bestowed upon Sir Michael "200 marks a year, for the better support of the honour of a banneret which he received from the King."

On March 15, 1351, a commission is issued to Michael de Poynings, amongst others, "to execute the ordinance of labourers and servants, pursuant to the statutes of Winchester and Northampton, and in the last parliament at Westminster, in the County of Sussex."³³

He married Joan, widow of John Molins, and was succeeded by his second son, Richard.

Sir Richard de Poynings presented John Swyket to Sidestrand Church in 1373, and is returned as lord of Hockwold, Sidestrand, etc., in 1381. Like his neighbour Sir John de Plays, he accompanied John of Gaunt, titular king of Castille and Leon, on his Spanish expedition in 1386, and there he died of disease, as did many other English knights.

Robert, lord Poynings, appears to have been the next holder of the estates, and on his death, in 1447, his second son, Robert, succeeded to them. Before this time, however, the Sidestrand holding had been passed on to sub-tenants, and from 1391 onwards we find the Attewode family in possession of it, their tenancy lasting for over a hundred years.

31. *Pat. R.*, 12-14, Edw. III., m. 12.

32. *Ibid.*, 13 Edw. III., pt. 2, m. 2. That Thomas was alive in July, 1339, is proved by the same *Pat. R.*, pt. 3, m. 4, where he is witness to a deed. "Agnes, late the wife of Thomas de Ponynghes," occurs, 1346.

33. *Pat. R.*, 25 Edw. III., pt. 1, m. 15d., and do. 1354, 28 Edw. III., pt. 1, m. 22d., etc.

Robert Poynings married Elizabeth Paston, daughter of the famous Judge Paston, and I have told their story fully elsewhere.³⁴ He was killed at the second battle of St. Albans, 17th February, 1461. A bitter family quarrel broke out after his death between his widow and Eleanor Poynings, Countess of Northumberland, who claimed all the estates as daughter and heiress of Richard Poynings, elder brother to the first Robert Poynings. Finally, young Sir Edward Poynings was allowed to enter upon his inheritance, his manors of Hockwold, Wilton, and Sidestrand being valued at £6 15s. 8d.³⁵ He became lord warden of the Cinque Ports and died in 1522, the last male representative of his family.

With the extinction of the male line the de Poynings' estates passed to Henry Percy, fifth Earl of Northumberland, in right of his grandmother Elizabeth Poynings. The Percys did not long retain the Sidestrand fee, for in 1530 they conveyed it to Robert Ratcliffe, Viscount Fitzwalter, afterwards Earl of Sussex.

The barony of Poynings remained in the Percy family until 1722, when it became extinct, on the death of Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of the eleventh earl of Northumberland, and wife successively of Henry Cavendish, Earl of Ogle, Thomas Thynne of Longleat, and Charles Seymour, sixth Duke of Somerset.

The de Poynings bore arms "barry of six, *or et vert*, on a bend *gules*, three mullets, *argent*." Their coat of arms was formerly to be seen in Sidestrand Church, and their name is perpetuated in the existing manor of "Sidestrand Poynings." No doubt the present Manor Farm (to which is attached the alternate presentation to the rectory), is on the site of their Manor House.

DE REPPES, OF NORTH REPPES, SOUTH REPPES, THORPE MARKET, etc. : A volume could be filled with the numerous references to the family of de Reppes which are to be found in Blomefield, the Norris MSS., the Patent Roll Calendars, and elsewhere. This is not the place for a lengthy history of them, but the following short account may be of assistance to future writers. In it I have ventured to disagree with Blomefield more than once, and to suggest certain alterations in the Heralds, Pedigrees, conclusions in all cases coming from a careful study and comparison of the Patent Roll Calendars with the Norris MSS. and all other available sources of information.

The vills of North Repps and South Repps, both parcels of the Soke, were held of the earls Warenne in free socage by the "ancient family of de Repps."

Both Blomefield and Norris begin their pedigrees at the Conquest

34. *Records of a Norfolk Village*, pp. 59-68.

35. *N. Erp.*, p. 203.

with Ralph de Reppes, father of Sir Bartholomew de Reppes, who in his turn left three sons, Sir Warin, Sir Robert, and Sir Bartholomew. It is difficult to trace the history of the family in its early stages. A Sir Thomas de Reppes was living in 34 Henry III. (Blomefield), and in 40 Henry III. (as we have seen), Sir Richard de Plays granted to his stepmother "Alice, widow of Hugh de Plays, the homage and service of Thomas de Reppes for life."³⁶

In 41 Henry III. we find that Sir Robert de Reppes, son of "Warin de Suth Repps, disseized Richer, son of John de Thorp, of right of common in South Repps, for a tenement in Thorpe Market."³⁷

"Edmund de Repps was living in the 52d of Henry III.," and in 14 Edward I. "Edmund of North Repps conveyed by fine, to Reginald, son of John de North Repps, several messuages, and parcels of land, with a mill in these towns"³⁸ (i.e. North and South Repps). He was also a juror in the same year in a *Quo Warranto* suit brought against William and Johanna de Warenne to show why they failed to do certain services in the Hundred of North Erpingham.³⁹

Blomefield states that Ralph de Reppes, son of Warin de Reppes, was bailiff of the manor of Gimingham in 52 Henry III., and in 1275 there is a complaint in the Hundred Roll that "Ralph de Reppes, 'serviens' (serjeant) of Gimingham, by direction of Wm. de Goldingham, seneschal of Earl Warren, appropriated this year to the earl two capital pledges with their 'decennis,' outside the King's lete, in the town of Antingham, in the earl's lete of Gimmingham."⁴⁰ A little further on in the same MS. we read that "Wm. de Ponte of Aylsham took of Wm. de Briar of Gunton and Clement fil' Parson of ditto 6s. to remove them from a jury in a case between Wm. fil' John and Ralph de Reppes."⁴¹ Again, we find that "Wm. Forestar of Gytingham, by direction of Ralph de Reppes, serjeant of Gytingham, came to the sea coast at Crowmere, which is outside the Earl Warren's fee, and attached one sail of a ship, and detained it unjustly till he received 2s. of the master of such ship."⁴²

The de Reppes were no better than their neighbours, and in those lawless days they were mixed up in several criminal proceedings

36. *N. Erp.*, p. 138.

37. Blomefield, VIII., p. 149.

38. *Ibid.*

39. *N. Erp.*, p. 232.

40. *Ibid.*, p. 223.

41. *Ibid.*, p. 224.

42. *Ibid.*, p. 227.

in which two Peyvers, of Thorpe, and a Spriggy, of Mundesley, were associated with them. In 1294 there is a "commission of oyer and terminer directed to Hugh de Cressingham and W. de Ormesby, on complaint by Nicholas Pollard of North Walsham, and John le Chapman of Sloleye, that William de Reppes and Laurence, Thomas and John his brothers, John Cok, Adam Trenchemer, Edmund Godfelawe, William, parson of the church of Burgh, John Huelyn, William son of Robert Pudding and William Spriggy carried away their goods at North Walsham."⁴³

And in 1299 a similar complaint is made by "the prioress of St. Cross, Bungeye, that Robert, prior of Cokesford,"⁴⁴ John Peyvre, Walter, vicar of Thorpe Market, Simon Forward, Ralph son of Walter de Lose, John Trenchemere, Reginald Tugge, William son of Martin Pulte, John Pulhom of Thorp, William Goche of Thorp, John son of Egelinus Buk, Martin Pulte, Ralph Peyvre, and Richard de Reppis [son of the second Bartholomew?] carried away her goods at Rughton and Thorpe Market, and assaulted her men."⁴⁵

The brothers William, Laurence, Thomas, and John were presumably sons of serjeant Ralph de Reppes. Laurence seems to have been his heir, at any rate as regards the North and South Repps holding. He was "querent, and John, son of Edmund de Repps, impediēt, of a messuage, 50 acres of land, 5 of meadow, 15 of marsh, 50 of heath, and 40s. rent in North and South Repps, etc., settled on Laurence, in the 30th of Edward I."⁴⁶ He was lord of the manor of North Repps, which he held "in soccage, valued at 5*l.* *per ann.* and the service of 6s. 8d.," and in the "*Nomina Villarum*," 1316, earl Warenne and Laurence de Reppes are given as joint lords of North and South Repps. He also held the manors of Edingthorpe and Deopham. On his death in 1322 he left two daughters as his heiresses, Sibill, wife of her third cousin Sir Robert de Reppes (great-grandson of Sir Robert, who in his turn was grandson of Ralph de Reppes, tempus William I.), who inherited North Repps as her share, and Elizabeth, wife of Thomas de Wylby, who had Edingthorpe.⁴⁷

Sir Robert de Reppes thus became head of the family in North and South Repps. Of Ralph's other sons, we find Thomas with property at Diddlington and Feltwell, in 1315, and living at Buxton in 1317,⁴⁸ and as a royal commissioner in Marshland and elsewhere in

43. *Pat. R.*, 22 Ed. I., m. 22d., etc.

44. The Priory of Cokesford held land in Thorpe Market.

45. *Ibid.*, 27 Ed. I., m. 37d.

46. Blomefield, VIII., p. 149.

47. See Norris, *Funeral Monuments*, and *Wills*.

48. *Pat. R.*, 9 Ed. II., pt. 1, m. 25d. "Complaint of Thomas de Reppes that John de Oddingseles and Wm. his brother, John de Gestyng-

1324, and at later dates. He left a son also named Thomas, who, as a minor, in 1357, was placed in the custody of Sir John de Colby by his uncle Sir John de Repps, knight, of Buxton, Constantine de Mortimer and Sir Robert de Erpingham being witnesses of the grant.⁴⁹ The younger Thomas was father of Henry de Reppes, of Buxton, who married Alianor, daughter of Robert, Lord Morley, Baron Rye, and lord of the principal manor of Buxton, by whom he left an only daughter, Catherine, wife of William Lovel.

William de Reppes, another son of Ralph de Reppes, occurs in a trespass case in 1308, and was living in 6 Edward II. [Rye], and it may be that he was that William de Reppes who is accused, with others, of carrying away the goods and plundering the servants of Queen Philippa at Castleacre.⁵⁰ It was doubtless this William de Reppes who held land of earl Warenne in Bradfield and Swafield in 9 Edward II.⁵¹

The remaining brother was Sir John de Reppes, of Buxton, who also retained a third part of the manor of Thorpe, and in his will made bequests to the Church of South Repps. In 1370 he was executor to Sir Robert de Erpingham, who it will be remembered had witnessed the grant of the custody of his nephew Thomas in 1357. By his wife Amicia, daughter of Henry de Leveshaugh, he left two daughters, Alice, wife (1st)⁵² of Sir John (or Edmund) de Radesham, and (2nd) of Clement de Plumstede, and Beatrix, wife of John de Erpingham.

Norris and Blomefield give different particulars in their summaries of his will. According to the former he directs "his Body to be buried at the Fryers Minors at Norwich, Near to the Tomb of Sir John Bavent Kt., and by his will he gave to the High Altar at Southreppes xxs., to the Repair of the Church 6s. 8d., to the Repair of ye Church at Uppeston lxs., to Broth^r. Ralph de Castro 5 marks for an Annual to be Celebrated for the soul of Florentia de Plumstede, ("probably his wife," Blomefield) to the Leppers at Magdalen xld., to the Leppers at the 5 Gates of Norwich xd., to the poor at St. Giles' Hospital 10d., to the Sisters at Norman Spital . . . , to the Canons of St. Olaves 26s. 8d., to pray

thorpe, chaplain. Ralph Blome, Mariota, late the wife of John le Man and others, carried away his goods at Duddelyngton and Feltwell." *Pat. R.*, 11 Ed. II., pt. 1, m. 14d. "Complaint of Thomas de Reppes that Henry de Leveshagh (father-in-law of his brother John!) and others broke his house at Buxton, threshed his corn, fished in his stews, and carried away his corn and other goods."

49. Rye. *Norj. Families*, p. 728.

50. *Pat. R.*

51. Blomefield, Vol. XI., pp. 6 and 68.

52. In 1347 a John de Reppes, "chivaler," is exempted from serving on juries, etc.

for the soul of Henry de Calcotes, the mother of the s^d. Henry and others of his Ancesters; Executors, Alice widow of Sir Edm^d. de Reddisham Kt. (his daughter), Robert peronil and others; Dat^d. fryday before St. Barnaby 1373 and prov^d 11 July 1373. Reg. Heyd. fol. 31^a.⁵³ Blomefield gives the further particulars that he gave "to the Lady Alice, his daughter, the 3d part of his manor of Thorp-market; and to John de Plumsted, his grandson, his tenements in Shipden and Cromer, with the mill, villains, etc., on condition that he made no claim to any other of his possessions; and to the daughter of John de Plumstede, 40s., to the nunnery Brusyard one of his cups; and to John Launey a cup called Blakebolle, with a silver cover, that £4 be laid out to pray for his soul; to Beatrix his sister, 10 marks; to Cecilia de Hedyrset 20s., that on his burial there be — 5 tapers, and 6 torches of wax, each of the weight of 5 pound, and that 40s. in bread be distributed to the poor of Norwich, and more if necessary; that every brother of the Convent of Gray Friars have 12d., the nunnery of Crabhouse half a mark; the nuns of Thetford 20s. and those of Redelingfeld two marks."⁵⁴

The legacy to the nunnery of Brusyard in Suffolk is of particular interest. It was one of the four English convents for Poor Clares, and had by a benefaction become the holder of land in South Repps. This was later on increased by a grant of Sir William de Wychingham and others, in 51 Edward III., of more land and rents in North Repps, South Repps, Gimingham, Thorpe and Cromer. The Minoreesses must have been popular in the Soke, for St. Clare is painted on the screen in Trimmingham Church, and Alice de Reppes was a nun at Brusyard in 1373. Seventy years later another local lady, Anne de Felbrigge, was also a nun there, and her father, Sir Simon de Felbrigge, K.G., at his death 1442 is said to have held a manor in South Repps, out of which he directed that 13s. 4d. should be paid to his daughter annually for her lifetime.⁵⁵ The male Franciscans were more generally popular than the women's Order and we may surmise that Friar John de Reppes who occurs in 1381, was of their fraternity, and Sir John himself desires to be buried in the Church of the Gray Friars at Norwich.

We must now go back to Sir Robert de Repps, son-in-law of Laurence de Reppes, and the holder in right of Sibill, his wife, of the North Repps and South Repps property. His name occurs under North Repps in the Subsidy Rolls of 1 and 6 Edward III.,

53. Norris. *Funeral Monuments*, f. 294.

54. Blomefield, VIII., p. 151.

55. *N. Etp.*, pp. 135-6.

when he payd *vjd.* and *xiiijd.* As one of earl Warenne's principal vassals he figures often in the Patent Rolls of the period.

In 1316 he obtained a pardon "for acquiring in fee without licence from the king's kinsman, John de Warenne, the manor of Hillington and $\text{£}10$ 2s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. of rent in Grymston, Congham, Geyton and Stybridde, and the advowson of Stybridde Church, held in chief."⁵⁶ He evidently began to accumulate the de Reppes holdings in West Norfolk and Marshland, and in a protection for one year dated 1322, he is described as "of Lenne." In 1316 he and his North Norfolk neighbour, Henry de Sidestrand, were witnesses to a charter of earl Warenne's, and in 1319 he and John Spriggy, of Mundesley, witnessed a deed for the earl. In the following year they both got into trouble, John de Neyrford complaining "that John Sprygi, Simon Plasent, Robert de Reppes and John Caunceler, with others, broke his close at Wesenham and took and carried away his goods!"⁵⁷

In Edward II.'s reign his patron John de Warenne granted to "Robert de Repps, his valet, a parcel of waste ground in" the manor of South Repps, "near the messuage of Robert, to enlarge it,"⁵⁸ the witnesses including Michael de Poynings and Richard de Reppes and in 1327 he received a pardon for acquiring "land in Southreppes, and entering thereon without licence."⁵⁹ He shared too in the general pardon to earl Warenne and others on the accession of Edward III., 1327.

In 1328, he obtained a licence to enfeoff John de Wikilwode, Chaplain, of his manor and property in and near Hillington, "and for the feoffee to grant the premisses to the said feoffor and Sybil his wife and Laurence, his son, and the heirs of the said Laurence."⁶⁰ In 1338 he and Sybil, his wife, settled their manor of North Repps, with land there and in Overstrand and Sidestrand, the advowson of Hautbois and their estate at Hillington, on their same son Laurence and Margaret his wife.⁶¹ Two years later he acquired in fee the manor of Kettlestone from William, son of Thomas de Mileham. He appears to have died before 1356, for there is a pardon dated 15 October of that year "for 40s. to the king by John de Reppes, 'chivaler,' John de Wolterton, parson of the Church of Little Snoryng, and Wm. del Grene, Chaplain, for acquiring the manor of Kettlestone from Robert de Reppes

56. *Pat. R.*, 10 Ed. II., pt. 2, m. 32.

57. *Pat. R.*, 14 Ed. II., pt. 1, m. 23d.

58. Blomefield, VIII., p. 150.

59. *Pat. R.*, 1 Ed. III., pt. 2, m. 2.

60. *Ibid.*, 2 Ed. III., pt. 2, m. 14.

61. *Pat. R.*, 12 Ed. III., pt. 2, m. 18, and *N. Erp.*, p. 140.

without licence. Licence for them to retain the same and for them to grant it to *Alice, late the wife of Robert de Reppes*, with remainder to the sons of Robert, Robert (?) and John de Reppes."

In the Gimmingham reeve's accounts for 1391-2 we find 40s. due "in decay of rent of the late Sir Robert de Reppes, knight."

Sir Robert left several sons, of whom John and Richard were by his first wife, and Nicholas and Laurence his heirs by his wife Sibill. Nicholas was living at South Repps in 1357, and by his wife, Agnes, was father of Sir John de Reppes. He was probably that Nicholas de Reppes who was pardoned in 1327 for the part he had taken against Queen Isabella.

Laurence, Sir Robert's second son, by his wife, Margaret, was father of Sir Richard de Reppes, whose two daughters and coheirs married respectively John Marshall and John Bures.⁶² "In the 7th of Richard II. John Marshall and Catherine his wife, and John Bures, and Alice his wife, . . . each held a moiety of North Repps manor. Joan, the wife of Sir John Herling, having her thirds herein. This Joan was probably the relict of Sir Richard Repps, and was then held of the dutchy of Lancaster, into which it came on the death of John Earl Warren, in the reign of Edward III., and in the 4th of Henry IV. John de Bures (son and heir of John de Bures, and Alice his wife), released all his right of his moiety to his feoffees."⁶³

To return to Sir John de Reppes, (son of Nicholas). He was the father of Sir Henry de Reppes who married Joan or Johanna, daughter of Sir John Fastolf. Norris states that they were both buried in South Repps Church about the year 1400. Both Mr. Rye and Blomefield give the name of their son and heir as Henry, of Thorpe Market, but they were certainly also the parents of Sir John de Reppes of Thorpe Market, who died in 1437, and left a legacy to South Repps Church "where his parents were buried." He was executor to John Thornham of Norwich in 1420, to Sir Roger Boys in 1421, and to Thomas Bryghtmere, vicar of Thorpe Market, in 1425. In his will (1437) he is called *Reppes alias Mack*, but for what reason does not appear. In it "he directed to be buried in the steeple of the Church of Thorpe Market and

62. He may have had a son too, who probably predeceased him, for Norris mentions "Robert de Reppes, son of Richard de Reppes, to whom Will Rectr. of Intewode, by his will dated A.D. 1389, Left a Legacy of 5 marks. Reg. Harf: f. 107b."

63. Blomefield, VIII., p. 151. I fancy, however, that both Marshall and Bures must have retained some property within the Soke, for the names of John Marchall and Thomas Bour, of Gimmingham, occur together on several occasions in the Court Rolls of the period.

gave to the High Altar 13s. 4d., To find the light of St. John there for one year 3s. 4d., To the Fabrick of the Church 13s. 4d., To the Rep^r. of the Steeple and the Chaple of St. John 40s. To the Rep^r. of the Church of Southreppes, where his parents are buried 40s., To each order of Fryers in Norwich 40s., a priest to celebrate 3 years in the Church of Thorpe Market for his soul and the souls of all his Friends and benefactors Taking for his salary 8 marks p ann." etc. (Reg. Doke, f. 18a).⁶⁴

His eldest son Robert succeeded him and died in 1457, "of Thorpe Market."⁶⁵ He seems to have been an ally of the Pastons and on 1 November, 1440, he writes as follows to John Paston.

"A mon tresreverent et treshonerable Maister John Paston soit doné.

Salvete etc. Tytyngs, the Duk of Orlyawnce⁶⁶ hath made his oath upon the Sacrement, and usyd it, never for to bere armes ayenst Englund, in the presence of the Kyng and all the Lordes, except my Lord of Gloucestre. And proving my seyde Lord of Gloucestre agreyd never to hys delyveraunce, gwan the masse began to toke his barge, [etc.] God yet grace the seide Lord of Orlyawnce be trewe, for this same weke shall he to ward Fraunce.

Also Freynchmen and Pykardes, a gret nowmebre, kome to Arfleet (*Harfleur*), forto arescuyd (*have rescued*) it; and our Lordes wyth here smal pusaunce manly bytte (*beat*) them, and pytte hem to flyte, and, blyssyd be our Lord, have take the seide cite of Arflet; the qwych is a great juell to all Englund, and in especiall to our cuntre.

Moreover there is j (*one*) kome in to Englund, a Knyght out of Spayne, wyth a kercheff of plesaunce i wrapped aboute hys arme; the qwych Knyght wyl renne a cours wyth a sharpe spere for his sovereyn lady sake; qwom other (*either*) Sir Richard Wodvyle or Sir Christofore Talbot shall delyver, to the wyrchip of Englund and of hem selff, be Goddes grace.

Sir, I beseche recomende me on to my mastres your modyr, to my mastres your wyff, and to my mastres your suster, *et omnibus alijs quorum interest*, [etc.]

Sir, I pray you, wyth all myn hert, hold me excusyd that I wryte thus homly and briefly to you, for truly convenable space suffyced me nowt.

64. Norris. *Funeral Monuments*, f. 294.

65. *Ibid.*, f. 295.

66. "Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, and had never since been released."—Gairdner.

No more atte this tyme, but the Trynyte have you in proteccion [etc:] . . .

Wretyn in le fest de tous Seynts, entre messe et Mateyns, *calamo festinante*, [etc.]

Yours, Rob. Reppes.⁶⁷

We find Robert de Reppes in 1451 acting as a letter carrier between John Paston and Agnes Paston, his mother. In that year she writes, "I receyved yor letter by Robert Reppys thys day."⁶⁸

Robert de Reppes died in 1457 and his brother John Reppes, of Herringfleet, seems to have been his heir. At any rate John held a share of the Thorpe Market and South Repps estate. His name also occurs in the Paston letters in two documents dealing with the affairs of Sir John Fastolf; in the second of these, dated 1451, Fastolf writes, "I am also in doubt of one Reppes of Heringflete, who is Heydon's man."⁶⁹

John de Reppes' will is dated 23 September 1473 and proved in the following December. In it he directs "to be buried in the chancel of Heryngflete St. Margaret: gives 2 acres of land to that church: to John his son 20 marks; and 20 to his sons Nicholas, William and Thomas; Alice, his wife, to have her 3d. part of the manors of Thorpe Market and South Repps, for life; remainder to Henry his son in tail."⁷⁰

Now I have surmised for some time past that it is with *this* Henry, son of John of Herringfleet and Thorpe Market, that the Visitation pedigree begins. My reasons for believing this are that I have not found any documentary evidence that Sir Henry and Joan de Reppes were the parents of a son named Henry. Another point worthy of notice is that John de Reppes, "of Herringfleet," held the 3rd part of the manors of Thorpe Market and South Repps, and that the subsequent Henrys de Reppes were all described as of Thorpe Market. Of course this is only a conjecture, which further investigation may prove to be wrong, and in the meantime I have followed the older authorities in the drawing out of the accompanying pedigree.

We must return to the Henry of the Herald's Visitation, whether he was the son of Sir Henry or of John. He was "of Thorpe Market" and married to Ann, daughter of Richard Holditch, of Didlington. Her parents were living in 1 Richard III. (1377) and 4 Henry IV. (1402-3).⁷¹

67. "Paston Letters" [Gairdner's 1910 edit:]. Letter No. 27.

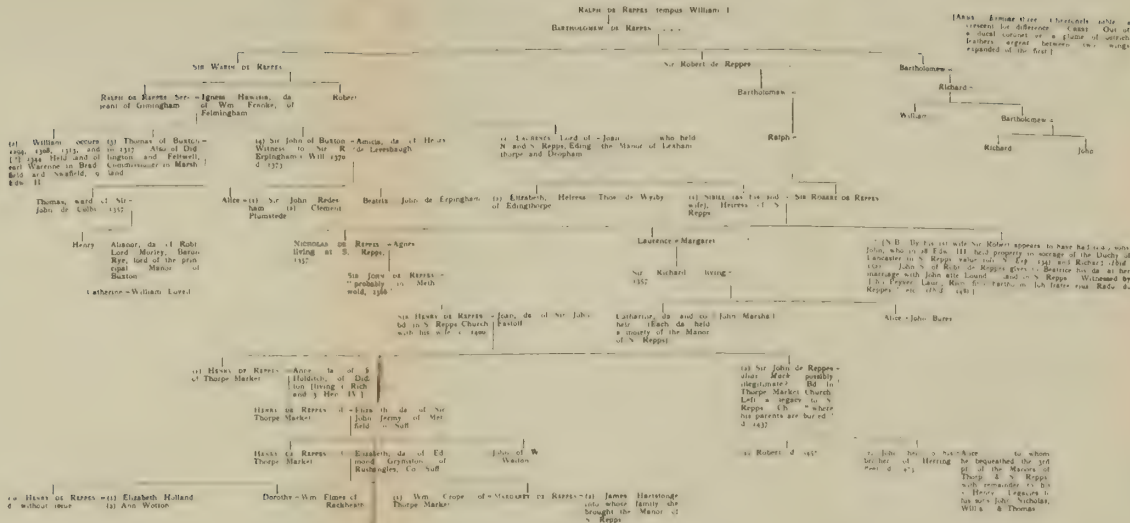
68. *Ibid.*, No. 162.

69. *Ibid.*, Nos. 129 and 154.

70. Blomefield, VIII., p. 151, and Norris, *Reg. Hubert*, fol. 22.

71. Blomefield, VI., p. 89.

[Anus] Same size. Chordons, table a
resent the difference. (Cant. Out of
a dual corner or a plane of stretch
leathers, organ between two wings
expanded of the feet.)



Henry and Anne de Reppes were the parents of another Henry, of Thorpe Market, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Jermy, of Metfield, Co. Suffolk. They left two sons, Henry, the elder, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmond Grymston, of Rushangles, Co. Suffolk, and John, the younger, who married as his first wife Margaret, daughter and one of the heirs of Henry Smyth of Walpole, and who was the founder of the West Walton branch of the family. Henry, the elder brother, left as his heir yet another Henry, and several daughters, Dorothy being the wife of William Elmes, of Rackheath, and Margaret of William Croke or Cropp.⁷²

This Henry de Reppes is described as of Mendham, Co. Suffolk. Although twice married he left no children. He seems to have disposed of his North Norfolk property, and at any rate none of it was held by his brothers Francis and John, who both resided in Marshland. Henry Reppes, *junior*, who occurs in 1514, was probably this Henry. In the Subsidy Roll for 14 Henry VIII. Henry Reppes, *gent*, is a contributor in South Repps. In 38 Henry VIII. he was a party to a fine *versus* John Sward in Thorpe Market, South Repps, Roughton and Cromer.⁷³ A few years later, in 2 Edward VI., he parts with the "manor of Repps" and lands "in Repps, Thorpemarkett, Antyngham" etc., to William Croke, gent, his brother-in-law.⁷⁴

After Croke's death, Margaret, his widow, married James Hartstonge, and so brought the manor of South Repps into the Hartstonge family.

After the death of Henry de Reppes, and the acquisition of South Repps and Thorpe Market by William Croke, the male representatives of the family seem to have quitted North Norfolk. They remained in Marshland until well down into the eighteenth century, and we find them at Wisbech, West Walton, Walpole and later on at Mattishall in Mitford Hundred.

The de Repps bore arms: *Ermine*, three chevronels *sable*, a crescent for difference. Crest: Out of a ducal coronet *or*, a plume of ostrich feathers *argent* between two wings expanded of the first.⁷⁵

NOTE.—I very much regret that lack of space has made it necessary to omit references to other members of the de Repps family and especially that Hugh de Reppes, the "king's yeoman,"

72. In 1589 "Willm. Crophe gen. alledgeth his disability (to pay loan) and bringeth a certift to wytnesse the same from Willm. Rugge, Esqr., Justice of the lymitt."—*Stiffkey Papers*, p. 98.

73. *N. Erp.*, p. 560.

74. *Ibid.*, p. 561.

75. *The Visitations of Norfolk*, 1589, and 1613, p. 230.

of Lynn, can find no worthy place in these pages. He figures frequently in the Patent Roll Calendars from 1335 onwards for many years, the entries chiefly relating to shipping enterprises. For example on 9 October, 1335, "Hugh de Reps of Lynn, Merchant," is licenced to take 1000 quarters of corn of any kind without the realm to make his profit in Flanders and Seland, notwithstanding any mandate prohibiting the export of grain." His ship in 1336 was called "la Charité" and in 1337 he was master of the king's ship "la Rode Cogge," when he apparently acted as a customs house patrol to prevent the export of contraband. He served under the king's admiral Robert Morle in 1342, and in 1343 is pardoned for having plundered "a ship called a 'tarite' bound for Flanders, because he has found and victualled two ships with armed men for the king's service!"

Later on he is captain of a ship called "le Mighel" bound for Gascony. I am afraid he was not always a very creditable character but he was under royal patronage, and so escaped punishment for his misdemeanours. He was mixed up in a very shady conspiracy case in 21 Edward III., when an attempt was made to defraud the king of certain forfeitures, and with this intent Hugh and others feigned that a certain "Thomas de Foulsham had died at Lenne, caused solemn funeral rites and masses for his soul to be celebrated, and an empty coffin as if his body were within to be buried, and afterwards, fearing inquiry would be made by the coroner . . . brought a dead body from elsewhere!" In spite of this, however, Hugh gets his pardon a few months later for "any tresspass or falsity done by him!"

SPRIGGY OF MUNDESLEY.

The family of Spriggy was of less consideration than the other feudal tenants of the Soke. They held a small manor in Mundesley of the earls Warenne, and the earliest of the name given by Norris is "William Sprigey of Mundesley, who died before 14 Edward I., 1286, and left Agnes his wife, (John) his son and heir at that time a minor. In which year 14 Edw. I. the said Agnes was impleaded by Juliana, widow of Simon Pecks (or Peche) to render to her the guardianship of the heirs and lands of the said Willm. Spriggey, who held of her a mess(uage) and 18 acres of land in Mutesley by the service of 8s. per annum and the payment of 3s. Scutage.⁷⁶

⁷⁶. Norris. *North Erpingham*, Vol. IV., p. 5, and Blomefield, VIII., p. 141.

Agnes Spriggy paid *xxd.* and *ijs. vjd.* Subsidy in Mundesley in 1 and 6 Edward III.

John Spriggey, son and heir of William Spriggey, held the Manor of Mundesley. He "was one of the Jury or Inquest impanelled to try the claim made by the Escheator and in behalf of the King, of having upon the decease of every Abbot of St. Benet, the deceased Abbot's best horse and best silver cup—this was in 31 Edw. I., 1304, and this inquest consisted of Knights and other Gentlemen of note in this neighbourhood."⁷⁷

John Spriggy was often in trouble. In July, 1305, a commission was directed to "William Howard, Hervey de Staunton and Robert Hereward, on complaint of John Sprigi, that Walter le Hunte, with many others, broke his mills at Paston and Moneoste, and his stank there, cut to pieces part of the timber of his mills and carried away part thereof with his goods from Paston, led away his beasts from Paston and Moneste, trampled his corn with their beasts and consumed the fish in his stanks."⁷⁸ In November he makes a further complaint that the fish have escaped from his stanks, that he has been prevented from carrying his corn, "wherby a great part of it was trampled and consumed by beasts," and that his beasts had only been returned to him on the payment of a "grevious ransom."⁷⁹

In 1320 we find the case reversed and John de Neyrford complains that "John Sprygi, Simon Plasent, Robert de Reppes and John Caunceler, with others, broke his close at Wesenham and carried away his goods."⁸⁰

On 5th November, 1319, John Spriggy and his neighbour Robert de Rippes were fellow witnesses to a deed of John de Warenne's.⁸¹

John Spriggy contributed *iijs. xjd.* and *iijs.* in Mundesley to the Subsidies of 1 and 6 Edward III., and *iijs. iiijd.* in Gymyngham in the latter year.

At the same period there was a certain Thomas Spriggy, described as "of Mundesley." Norris calls him son and heir to John, but he was more probably a brother. In 1313 he was "Lord and Patron of Intewode," and in 1314 he presented Nicholas Spriggy, *acolyte*, to the Church of Intewode and in 1325 he and Juliana his

77. Norris.

78. *Pat. R.*, 32 Edw. I., m. 15d.

79. *Ibid.*, m. 1d.

80. *Ibid.*, 14 Edw. II., pt. 1, m. 23d.

81. *Pat. R.*, 13 Edw. II., m. 26.

wife presented John de Bokenham to the same living. He held in right of "Juliane his wife, who was the widow of ———— Bukenham, the maners of Deveners in Lerling and Bukenhams in Illington. . . ." In 1315-16 he was returned by the Sheriffs as having a manor in Mulberton and also in Hethill. In 1317 he and the aforesaid Juliane his wife conveyed the manor of Baruns in Cringleford to Simon de Hetherset and Cecily his wife."⁸²

On 1st September, 1336, a commission is directed to "John de Shardelowe, Thomas Bacoun, Constantine de Montuo Mari, John Claver and John Clere, on complaint of John de Norwico, knight, and John Heved, of Trowse, that John, son of John Gloecz of Byntre, *Nicholas*,⁸³ *son of John Spriggy of Monesle*, [probably the acolite appointed to Intewode], Adam his brother, Henry Brentyng of Buxton, *Thomas son of William Spriggy of Hoveton*,⁸⁴ William de Leem of Buxton, John de Leem of Lammesse, Roger Mundy of North Walsham, Walter le Serjaunt of Suthfeld, John son of Thomas de Millere of Marsham, Thomas Kybbyng (or Kyblyng) of Trunch, Nicholas son of Robert Gryndel of Colby and others, at Oxnade, mowed their corn, felled their trees, fished their -stews and carried away their fish, tress and corn with other goods."⁸⁵

In 6 Edward III. Thomas Spriggy contributed xiiij*l.* Subsidy in Gimingham, and in 1391-2 John Spriggy paid 4*s.* in rent to the lord of Gimingham. A certain Ralph Spriggy of "Monesle," (who may have been a son of Thomas), "was admitted to the office of Dean of the Manors of the Prior and Convent of Norwich at their nomination" in the year 1325.⁸⁶

John Spriggy left a son and heir named Laurence. He married in 1335 a wife named Margaret, and upon the occasion of this marriage Oliver de Groos or de Gross, of Sloley, and Roger Chartres "feofees in trust granted by fine the manor of Monesley and certain lands in Paston to John Spriggy, father of the said Laurence for his life, with remainder to the said Laurence and Margaret his wife in tail."⁸⁷

Laurence Spriggy rendered xv*l.* and xij*l.* Subsidy in Mundesley in 1 and 6 Edward III.

82. Norris.

83. Nicholas Spriggy paid v*l.* in Trunch, 6 Ed. III.

84. It was probably this William Spriggy who, in 1294, was a party with William, Laurence, Thomas, and John de Reppes, in a raid on the goods of Nicholas Pollard and John le Chapman at North Walsham. See p. 42.

85. *Pat. R.*, 10 Edw. III., pt. 2, m. 30*d.* and m. 26*d.*

86. Norris, quoting *Inst. lib.*, f. 6*a.*

87. See Norris, who corrects Blomefield, VIII., p. 141, where the date of this settlement is 9 Ed. II. instead of 9 Ed. III.

In 1361 we find him as a trustee presenting to the rectory of Stibbard. Laurence and Margaret had only one child, a daughter named Joan, who married successively Roger Roys of North Walsham (d. 1384), and John de Mundeford, "lord of a Manor in Felmingham in her right in the 19 Ric. 2, 1395." She apparently had issue by her first husband only and Norris tells us that her estates "were carried by an heiress of that family (Roys) to the Rouses of Denington in Suf. and this manor was sold by them in or before the Reign of K. Edward the 4th,"

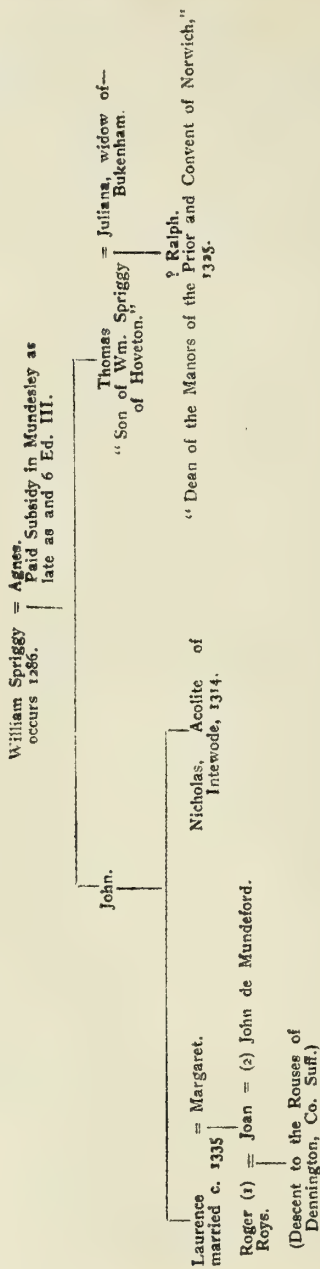
At any rate in August, 1477, "Spriggeis" manor was held by the Paston Family.⁸⁸ I fancy that the manor of *Mundesley Rishes* must be this manor and that the name should be *Roys or Rouses*.

According to Norris the Spriggys bore arms:—"Cheque *or* and *azure* a Fess argent, — a Coat very like the Calthorpes, and like theirs may be supposed to have taken its Field from their Superior Lords the Earls of Warren."⁸⁹

88. "Paston Letters," No. 805.

89. Norris, *North Erpingham*, Vol. IV., p. 5.

SUGGESTED PEDIGREE OF SPRIGGY OF MUNDESLEY.



CHAPTER IV.

THE MANOR UNDER THE DE WARENNES.

(PART I.).

The period during which the de Warennes were lords of Gimingham coincides with that epoch in which the manorial system reached its highest point of efficiency.

In those days the centre of the Soke was the Manor House of Gimingham, which gave to the manor that element of residence which was considered essential. Many centuries later, Sir Henry Spelman¹ wrote, "Now returning to the shore, I pass over Cromer, a market town, that has suffered of Neptune's violence, and draw nigh to *Gimtingham*, the chief seat of the Duchy of Lancaster in our parts. There, there is a Great Hall, divided by columns, as to which in old days it was the custom that none went beyond the column assigned to his rank and station: and a habit [akin to] the old custom still continues, that of seeking of the husbandmen (*Colonis*)² of the Manor, (who were formerly called *Socmen* but now *Tenants in Soccage*) not so much money payment as work in the fields, or work concerned with food and clothing. Tacitus mentions this as a custom unfamiliar to the Romans, prevailing in all the Cisalpine [tribes]. Kng Henry II. first changed it for us."³ The eventual fate of both the Great Hall and the agricultural services will be told in subsequent chapters.

During the de Warenne lordship many notable guests were received at the Manor House, including John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury. In December, 1280, he was making a Visitation of the Norfolk religious houses, starting at Wymondham in November, whence he wrote to the Bishop of Ely, on the 17th, "on the subject of the less frequent use of the Athanasian Creed which the Benedictines had attempted to bring about some three years before."⁴ A few days later he was at Thorpe, near Norwich, no doubt

1. Sir Henry Spelman was born at Congham, in Norfolk, in 1562, was M.P. for Castle Rising, 1592, High Sheriff 1605, and died in 1641.

2. "*Colonis* = a husbandman or villager who was bound to pay yearly a certain tribute; and at certain times in the year to plough the lord's land and from hence (*sic*) comes the word clown." (Tomlin's Law Dictionary).

3. *Icenia* (2nd Edit.), 1727, p. 152. Le Neve gives similar particulars of Gimingham, fol. 134, quoted *N. Erp.*, p. 59.

4. Jessop, *Norwich*, p. 233.

as the guest of the Bishop of Norwich who had a palace there, passing on to St. Benet's, which he visited on December 6th. He evidently reached Gimingham on or before December 12th, and amongst his correspondence are several letters dated from Gimingham on December 13th.⁵

John Peckham had been educated at earl Warenne's foundation of Lewes and was a Franciscan Friar, who, a poor man himself, always took the part of the poor. In 1379, the first year of his archepiscopacy, he addressed a letter to the earl asking him "to attend to his tenants' complaint about the excessive quantity of game on his land."⁶ That the earl bore him no malice for this request is proved by the fact that the Archbishop was his guest at Gimingham in the following year.

An even more distinguished guest visited Gimingham a few years later, namely the King, Edward I., who in the 13th year of his reign travelled through North Norfolk, staying at Binham and at Bishop Middleton's Manor of Thornage and finally at Gimingham, where he was found on March 13th. A week later he was at Peterborough, so his visit to earl Warenne was evidently of short duration.⁷

Possibly both archbishop and king used their visit to Gimingham as a convenient opportunity for making a pilgrimage to the famous Priory of Bromholme, with its relic of the True Cross, distant but a few miles from the earl's Manor House.

The site of the old hall at Gimingham shows few traces of its former importance, but several small points go to prove that the house and farm now known as Gimingham Hall do indeed cover part of the ground once occupied by the manor house. One cannot help noticing the very great length of the present range of farm buildings, covering as they do two acres of ground, and though they are of modern construction they evidently are the successors of older buildings. To the North East of the existing farm house the present tenant, Mr. Owles, some years ago turned up a large block of masonry, which apparently had been part of the corner of the old house, and which was so hard and solid that on ordinary tool could break it. This it now partially broken up, the remainder being tumbled sideways into a hole, where the top of it can still be seen. To the West of the present house, and at a distance of some 60 feet West of the abovementioned block of masonry, is a garden made by Mr. Owles' predecessor about forty years ago, in

5. See Appendix to this Chapter.

6. *Ibid.*

7. See Henry Harrod, *Castles and Convents of Norfolk*, p. 227.

which were found extensive remains of buildings, probably once the westernmost side of the manor house. The existing house has several ancient features, and has evidently been constructed out of a portion of the older mansion. The walls in many places are 10 feet thick, and the cellars have every appearance of great antiquity. On the West of the house some dressed stone is visible in the wall, and there is a mullioned window over the entrance porch. This porch was erected about 50 years ago, but a stone has been let into it which bears the date 1662. Behind this porch traces of an old fireplace are apparent, above which is a good piece of early brick-work. At the North West of the house is a small enclosed garden, whose walls show signs of great antiquity.

All that remains of the Manor House of the de Warennes and of John of Gaunt are these few stones, which at any rate give us a clue to the site of the vanished buildings.

The villagers have a tradition that there is a secret passage from Gimingham Hall to Bromholme Abbey at Bacton, and that exactly half way between the two the passage is divided by Golden Gates—but no one has ever been able to find either the passage or the wonderful gates!

The Manor House was surrounded by a deer park and woodlands, and about a hundred yards to the east stood the gallows, for the earl Warrene had power of life and death within the confines of the Soke. We find continual allusions to the Gallows Toft in old documents and the name has survived, the field being called "Gallows Hill" at the present day. Mr. Owles tells me that several old people in Gimingham have told him that their grandparents, in their day, could remember the gallows still standing and *in use* on Gallows Hill, and apparently criminals were hanged there until about a hundred and fifty years ago.

Around the Manor House were the demesne lands consisting of two hundred and twenty acres of arable land, thirteen acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, besides two hundred acres of park, sixty scattered acres of pasture and sixty acres of woodland, making a total of five hundred and sixty-three acres.

Then of course there was the Water Mill and later on there were four Wind Mills as well.

The estate was held "of the king in free socage by the service of one 'Campnolle,' " (genitive). There has been some discussion as to the English equivalent of this word, and in the forthcoming Calendar of the Inquisitions Post Mortem now in preparation at the Public Record Office, I understand it is translated as *mushroom*. In the Oxford Dialect Dictionary "Campernoyle" is given as an

obsolete word for toadstool, and a use of the word in 1527 is quoted. It derives the English word from the corrupt Latin "Campinoliu8," and it seems not unlikely that "Campernolla" comes from a similar parent source. We may therefore take it that the Soke of Gimingham was held of the king by a rent of a fungus of some description, a tenure which seems to be unique.

The Soke of Gimingham was really a little commonwealth ruled over by earl Warrene, but within it both the lord and the tenants had their special and necessary places in the organisation and administration of the life of the community. The earl as holder of the rights of sake and soke, and as lord of the capital manor, had many functions to perform, judicial, protective and military, besides holding the ecclesiastical patronage, and although he was the sole recognised authority and ruler of the feof of which he was tenant *in capite*, yet at the same time each villein, socman or freeman holding land from him had a voice in the management of their mutual concerns. The earl had "view of frank pledge," or the right to call upon the chief pledges or freemen⁸ of the vills to serve upon the Court Baron "without king's bailiff."⁹ The manorial courts transacted the business of the manor, and had the management of agricultural affairs, besides settling many fiscal and judicial questions. There were three different kinds of Manor Court, the Court Leet, dealing with legal and personal matters, and the Court Baron and Customary Court deciding questions affecting "the proprietary rights of the community."¹⁰

8. "Every free tenant was bound to attend, and a penalty was imposed upon everyone who was absent."—C. L. Gomme.

9. *Hundred Rolls, 1275*, quoted p. 221, "North Erpingham" (Rye).

10. These functions are described as follows by the late Sir C. L. Gomme in *The Literature of Local Institutions*. The Court Baron had "the right of admitting a tenant, which answers to the right of the community to determine whether a new settler should be admitted to membership; it had the right also of determining the by-laws, the local arrangements for the common husbandry, the fencing of the hay-fields, the proportion of cattle to be turned into the common pasture. It (might) also hold plea of any personal actions, of debt, trespass, etc., where the debt or damages do not amount to forty shillings (3 marks)." The Court Leet had an extensive criminal jurisdiction, and its duties were . . . "to state whether the roll of inhabitants is complete; whether any have gone away under any circumstances of suspicion; whether all on the roll have come up to the folk-mote; touching burglars, thieves and robbers, forgers, murderers, house-burners, and the accessories and harbourers of any of these; touching outlaws and returned convicts; touching treasure-trove, murders and stolen goods found and kept; touching gaol-breach, rape, abduction and wrong-doers in parks, burrows, warrens, etc.; touching maimings, assaults, false imprisonments, and other breaches of the peace; touching usurers, traitors, etc., and their harbourers; touching petty thefts; touching the hue and cry wrongly raised, or, if rightly, not followed up, who raised it, and by whose default suit was not followed up; touching landmarks broken, removed or altered; touching watercourses

Earl Warenne had, as we have seen, a right to a gallows and the power of exacting fines and forfeitures. Besides these franchises he had the "assize of bread and ale," a species of rigid local protection which compelled all dwellers in the Soke to buy these commodities within the manor, besides having to take their corn to be ground at the lord's mill. Any infringement of the assize was punishable by fine.¹¹

All trading was under the lord's control and earl Warenne, by royal grant, could hold a weekly market at Trunch. In 1242 this market was valued at 32s. 6d. and in 1391-2 at 30s.

Another "liberty" enjoyed by the earl was the privilege of "free warren," and he also had the right of "wreck of sea" wherever his lands touched the coast, that is to say, from Mundesley Beck to Conyborough Hill on the Overstrand boundary.

The royal authority had very little claim upon him, beyond the military service which as tenant *in capite* he owed to the king. Periodically some of the men of the Soke were expected to "follow the Sheriff's turn," that is to say, they had to serve on a hundred and county, as well as on a manor, jury. Even this obligation was often neglected and in the Hundred Rolls for 1275 and in the Crown Plea Roll for 14 Edward I. the jury complain that "all free tenants of the Soke of Gyvingham, in which is contained the eight villages of Gyvingham, Monesle, Knapeton, Suthreppes, Sythestrond, Trunch, N. Repps and Trimingham, used to follow the Sheriff's turn twice a year with four men and the constable of each village until sixteen years ago, when John de Warenn, Earl of Surrey, withdrew such villages from such turn to the damage of the king of 16s. a year."¹² The Hundred Roll adding "so that the Sheriff could not through them enquire as to the transgressions and transgressors in such towns."¹³

In 1286 another complaint was made that the earl did "not

turned or obstructed; touching ditches, walls, water banks, pools, or anything of the sort, meddled with, damaged, or otherwise to any man's hurt; touching ways and paths wrongfully obstructed or narrowed; touching false weights and measures; touching watch and ward not duly kept, and highway not well maintained; touching bridges and water banks out of repair; touching the adulteration of food" (summarised by Toulmin Smith from *Fleta*), and at a later date they were also instructed to enquire into matters touching heretics! A third Court, the Customary Court, dealt entirely with matters relating to the copyholders and their tenures.

11. See the Court Rolls, p. 220.

12. "Norfolk Antiquarian Miscellany," Vol. II., p. 188. *Crime and Accident in Norfolk in the Time of Henry III. and Edward I.*, by Walter Rye.

13. *N. Erp.*, p. 223.

allow his villeins of the Soke of Gimmingham to do service in the king's hundred, he admits that four men and the constable of each village throughout N. Erp(ingham) should come to the hundred court to hear the king's assize there, but says that his men should not go there to render any service. King's council denies this, and a day is given in octave of St. Hilary."¹⁴

The village was then, and for many subsequent centuries, an almost self-supporting agricultural community, supplying its own needs from the cultivation of the land, or from the workshops of the local craftsmen. Agriculture was the sole basis of the rural economy, and the land was a force which bound all classes together in an indissoluble and inevitable fraternity of common interest, labour and support. Since then the whole scheme of things has been reversed by political and agricultural developments, and we have even arrived at a period when land has been made the cause of social disruption. But in the distant days when earl Warenne was lord of his countless manors the old system of common farming was in full swing, which, though it tied men to the soil, also united them to their fellows and made of village life a corporate existence. The cultivated land had not yet been enclosed into fields and meadows, and as a rule it was divided into three or more great open fields held in common by all the people of the vill. These fields were subdivided into strips or *selions*, which were allotted to different members of the community by the assembled inhabitants in the manor court, where the rotation of the crops in the common fields was also decided.

The common pasture land as well as the stubble land thrown open in *shack* time (i.e., after harvest) were the feeding grounds of the stock and cattle, each tenant being allowed a fixed number of beasts or sheep limited according to the size of his holding.

Lord, priest, socman, villain and cottar all had their apportioned share in the agricultural scheme, the serf alone had no stake in the soil.

Since the imposition of the Norman manorial system all the land in a manor was assumed to be held by the lord *in capite*, and even the uncultivated *waste* was counted as belonging to him and not to the community at large. "The earl Warenne, for example, was empowered by Edward I. to enclose in the waste so much land as was necessary to give him a revenue of £200. If the rent is estimated at about 4d. an acre—a very usual estimation in those times—this

14. Extract from the *Placita Quo Warranto*, Edw. I., *N. Erp.*, p. 231.

would mean that the earl got license to enclose and colonise about twelve thousand acres in the most favoured part of England."¹⁵

The lord kept the land immediately surrounding his manor house in *demesne*, i.e., in his own hands as a home farm. The demesne was cultivated chiefly by the forced labour of the bond tenants, though from very early times this was supplemented by the work of paid servants. In the cultivation alike of the common fields and of the demesne land the principle of *carucage* still held good. The plough-land and the plough-team were the unit of taxation and of calculation. The holder of a carucate, or half or a quarter of a carucate must send his eight, four or two oxen to the common plough or to the lord's plough. There were many details to be settled by the manor courts with regard to these agricultural matters, and both the lord and his tenants had their officials to attend to their interests.

This then was the system under which men lived at that period, and in theory, and practice too, much can be said in praise of common agriculture, but there are an equally large number of arguments to be produced against it. On the one hand we have a scheme of life in which there is a place, and an absolutely necessary place, for all grades of men in the village, and which gives to every tenant, bond or free, a stake in the soil, even if it is only the five acre holding of the cottar. We have, too, the village in council managing its own affairs, trying the offender by his peers, summoning Adam because he has failed to clean out the common water ditch, or John because he has enclosed his holding, or William because he allows thistles and briars to grow on the dividing balk between his strip and his neighbour's to the damage of other folk's crops. But against all this must be placed the hard fact that the bond tenants were permanently planted in the manor where they had been born, and might only leave it on making an annual payment of *chevage* to the lord. If their daughters wanted to marry *merchet* must likewise be paid to the lord. When one of their number died his son must pay *heriot*, before taking up the holding, which moreover he was *obliged to do* under pain of being fined. The bond services, too, were an endless call upon the time and energy of the bond-man—harvest works, autumn carting works, winter works, to say nothing of so many days each week, all these must have been rather a wearisome rent to pay for a few acres scattered in the open fields, which themselves had to be cultivated with the sweat of

15. Edward III., Kancie rot. 7, p. 50, quoted by Prof. Petrushevsky in his *History of Wat Tyler's Rebellion*, and Vinogradoff, *The Growth of the Manor*, p. 331.

a man's brow. The bondman of those days had "security of tenure" with a vengeance, it was so secure that there was practically no release from it except by flight! And yet as Professor Vinogradoff says, "the customary life of the manor was rigid, and held in fetters even those who were nominally free, but, then, on the contrary, even serfs did not find it difficult to leap out of their fetters, if they were not afraid of the risk of leaving their customary occupations and surroundings."¹⁶

PART II.

The material for the early manorial history of Gimmingham is limited by the fact that all the Court Rolls anterior to 1381 were destroyed in that year by the rebel peasants. We have therefore to depend on fragmentary information gathered from a variety of sources.

The Pipe Roll, No. 86, 26 Henry III., m. 6, and the Chancellor's Roll for the same year, m. 9, contain a very interesting description of the possessions of earl Warénne in Gimmingham, Castleacre and Marham. There is one point of striking interest in this "extent," namely, that even at that early date (1240-1242) land was being let out to farm by the year in Gimmingham and Castleacre, and at the very high rent too of 74s. 4d. for 100 acres in the former and £6 17s. 4d. for 307 acres and some pasture in the latter. It has been generally assumed that the leasing of lands belongs to a later period than the middle of the 13th century, and that the custom only began when the manorial system was beginning to decay. That this was not the universal rule is proved by the document before us.

It may be pointed out that in the account which follows we get, in addition to the leases, details of the mill, the lease of the market, sale of the produce of the rents in kind, proceeds of the Hundreds of Gallow and Brothercross, receipts from Chevage, sale of bond works, etc., alms to religious houses, payment of the manor officials and servants, including grants of robes to the constable of Castleacre, the servants of the manor and the collectors of rent, and finally the accounts of farm expenditure.

16. Vinogradoff, *The Growth of the Manor*, p. 336.

¹Account of John de Ulecot of the lands of the earl Warren in Norfolk, to wit Gymyngham, Castleacre and Marham, from 26th July, 24 Henry III., to the day on which those manors were delivered to Henry de Neketon, that is to say, to the Feast of Michaelmas, 25 Henry III., who succeeded him in the shrievalty.

ents of Assize.

He renders account for £75 6s. (or 7s.) 3½d. of the Rents of Assize, for the same period, from Gymyngham: £19 10s. 4d. from Castleacre: 114s. 10½d. from Marham.

case of the Market.

£8 2s. 6d. issues of the mill of Gymyngham. 32s. 6d. of the rent of the market. (Chancellor's Roll amplifies "of the rent of the farm of the market," shewing that the market too was leased at the this period).

case of 100 Acres.

74s. 4d. from 100 acres of land, put to farm at Gymyngham, by the year.

case of 307 Acres, etc.

£6 17s. 4d. for 300 acres of land and 7 acres of meadow put to farm in Castleacre, and pastures let by the year.

ale of Rents in Kind,
c.

31s. ½d. of the geese and hens of rent sold at Gymyngham. ("de Ancis et gallines de redd vend apud Gymyngham.")

2s. from 2 quarters of oats of rent sold there.

£20 from the Hundreds Galcol (sic, for Gallow, Chancellor's Roll gives it as Kaleho.) and Brothercrow, (sic, for Brothercross. C.R. gives it as Brothercrofts).

8d. one pound of pepper and one pound of cummin of rent.

£10 of Aid granted at Gymyngham.

chevage, etc., Sale of
works.

£35 11s. 3½d. from chevage, herbage, fern (*fengcia*, P.R. *fengia*, C.R.) turbary, and dead wood, and of works sold, and of other small issues.

3s. chevage of Castleacre.

10 marks from the Hundred of Castleacre (sic, "de Hundreda Castleacre.")

In settled alms to the Prior of Lewes £8, by writ of the king.

alms to Religious
houses.

In settled alms to the monks of "Sancta Wylewaly" (C.R. gives "Winewali") 10s. 8d. and four horse-loads of barley in the manor of Marham, by writ of the king. [St. Winewaloy, Winwaloe or Winnall was the patron of a cell at Wereham, Norfolk and of a Church in Norwich,

1. Taken from *Pipe Roll*, No. 86, 26 Henry III., m. 6, supplemented by *Chancellor's Roll*, 26 Henry III., m. 9.

afterwards rededicated to St. Catharine. His festival was on March 3rd, hence "Winnal weather" signifies stormy or March weather. See Dugdale Blomefield and Forby].

Officials.	In acquittance of rent of reeves, bailiffs (or beadles), and parkers, 20s. 5d.	
Wages and Robes.	In livery to the constable of Castleacre and a robe for him, and in livery to the servants of the manor and their roses, and to the collectors of rent, £6 19s. 2d.	
Stock and Grain.	One stott.	} £11 9s. 11d.
	Two bulls.	
	43½ horse-loads of barley.	
	56 horse-loads of oats.	
Wages.	And in livery to the reeve and the bailiff in autumn, to the maid and to the keeper of the beasts at pasture ("in herbagio"), 22s. 4d.	
Farm Expenses.	Mowing the meadows and autumn works ("precaris autumnalibus"), ploughshares, and the shoeing of the stotts, 26s. 4½d.	
	And for ploughing "et warrand ² et rebinand" 140 acres, sowing the corn, hoeing it, mowing it, collecting it, carrying it, tossing it and husbanding it, £6 10s. 8d.	

In the following reign earl Warenne's franchises were called in question and in the *Placita Quo Warranto*, 14 Edward I., he had to show by what authority he held the rights of free warren, view of frankpledge, and assize of bread and ale within the Soke of Gimmingham. "As to warren the king's counsel admits. As to the rest, the latter says that Henry III. held such liberties until one Henry le Noble who was then Bailiff of Erpingham withdrew them, etc., and seeks an inquiry. Day given in octave of St. Hilary."³ The earl evidently made good his claim, for his successors continued to hold the disputed franchises.

In fact, not content with what he could claim legally, the earl tried in this same year to substantiate a right to view of frankpledge and free warren in Bacton, Paston and Edingthorpe, and wreck of sea from Mundesley Beck to "Grenewe in Beketon" as in right of his manor of Gimmingham. The real holder of these liberties in Bacton was Edmund, earl of Cornwall, who took proceedings against earl Warenne in the Hilary term, 14 Edward I., claiming infringement of his manor rights. A jury was subsequently sworn at West-

2. From "Warectare, to plough land intended for wheat in the Spring and let it lie fallow." C. T. Martin, *The Record Interpreter*.

3. Quoted in Rye's *North Erpingham*, p. 231.

minster, Easter, 15 Edward I., and the evidence showed that "William de Glanvill held Baketon all his life, then his brother Geoffrey, who, owing to minority, was impeded by the bailiffs of the father of the earl Warenne, who claimed it, [Bacton]. After Geoffrey's death his five sisters succeeded. So the king of the Romans purchased the share of one of the sisters and was in seisen of the aforesaid wreck, [etc.,] until John de Warenne after the battle of Lewes would not permit the said king to have the wreck, but after the battle of Evesham he (the king) had view of frankpledge," etc. The earl of Cornwall, as son and heir of the king of the Romans, very rightly won his case.⁴

A few years previously (3 Edward I.), the de Warennes had come into conflict with the abbot of St. Benet's on the subject of common and trading rights in North Walsham. The abbot was lord of the manor of North Walsham, whilst the earl only held a small lordship there to which the manor of Swafeld seems to have been annexed.⁵ He claimed, however, that his free tenants "ought to appear at the coming of the justices, sheriffs, etc., by four men and the reve, and to answer for the fifth part of the town, that they ought to be toll free in the market here and town, that the earl had all the amercements of his tenants of the barony and Soke of Gimmingham, amerced in the lete of the abbot; that the market was used in a place called the *Heath*, of the issues whereof the earl had one moiety and the abbot the other" and that they had been hindered of their common in *Loust-Fen*, *Gerdesmeadow*, and *Hilmore* by ponds made by the abbot and one Robert Bryan. Later the abbot was able to show his particular right to these places, and to prove that the earl's tenants had no common rights there, nor was there ever a market on the heath. He denied that the earl's tenants of *Gymingham Soc* were toll free. In a further enquiry in the twelfth year of Edward II. taken at Gymingham, "the jury say that the tenants of the earl, free and bond of the Soke of Gymingham, except the tenants of the new land, paid toll for their corn and barley, but never paid toll for their beasts sold."⁶

This was evidently an attempt to procure some degree of free trade between the earl's tenants in the Soke and beyond it. The burden of a rigid protection must have tended to isolate and cut off one manor from another, and the traveller in modern Italy can realise something of its inconveniences through the object lesson of the still existent *dazio comunale*.

4. *Chancery Miscellanea*, Bundle 70, File 1, No. 28.

5. See Blomefield, Vol. XI., p. 68.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 78.

WOOD DALLING.

Throughout the history of the Soke of Gimingham there appears to have been a tendency on the part of its lords to add to its bulk from time to time such outlying manors or holdings as might come into their hands. At the time of Domesday Book earl Warenne had a lordship in Wood Dalling in Eynsford Hundred, and this small manor was in a sense made parcel of his Soke of Gimingham, and at a later date we find the Dalling juries and manor business now and again included in the Gimingham Court Rolls, whilst the bondmen of Wood Dalling are described as regardant to the manor of Gimingham. It was no doubt a small and isolated holding, and it was simpler for purposes of manorial administration to tack it on to the already large capital manor of Gimingham. Blomefield gives the following particulars of the Wood Dalling holding in vol. viii., pp. 319-320. "The earl Warren had a lordship here and in Thirning: 5 freemen were deprived of their lands in Dalling, and one freeman in Thirning; among these were 3 carucates and a half with 2 acres of meadow, etc., valued at 20s. at the survey at 30s. and came to the Earl by an exchange for lands at Lewes in Sussex.

Thomas Watton held half a fee of the Earl Warren, when King Henry the Third's sister was married to the Emperor⁷. . . . In the 15th of Edward I. the Earl Warren claimed view of frankpledge, assize of bread and beer of his tenants here."⁸

In 15 Edward III., a certain John de Noioun died seized of lands in Wood Dalling and was most likely the tenant of the de Warenes, for at a later date, in 35 Edward III., we find his son John, holding the fourth part of a knight's fee of Michael Poynings, "in this town of Salle," Poynings at this time being a sub-tenant of the de Warenes in Hockwold, Wilton and Sidestrand.⁹

PASTON.

The de Warenes also held a lordship in Paston, and the notable Paston family were in the first instance tenants of bond land held of the manor of Gimingham, as we shall see in a later

7. 21 Henry III., an Aid was raised on the marriage of the king's sister to the king of the Romans.

8. Bl. VIII., p. 319-320.

9. John Noioun's cousin and heir was John Jernegan, and the family of Jernegan were for a long period the holders of *Nougoun's Manor* in Salle. In Henry IV.'s reign "Jane, late wife of John Benfield, held . . . half a fee of the duchy of Lancaster," evidently part of the de Warenne lands. Finally we find that Francis Mapes, gentleman, of Rollesby, Norfolk, died on March 9th, 13 Charles I., holding lands in Wood Dalling "of the king in soccage, by fealty." He left two daughters and co-heirs, one the wife of John Guibon, and the other Ann, unmarried. *Ibid.*, VIII., 320.

chapter. In the Domesday Survey we read "William earl Warren had a grant of a lordship, of which 5 freemen were deprived: a carucate and 30 acres of land belonged to it, with one villain, 19 borderers, 5 carucates, 2 bovates, and 2 acres of meadow, a mill and a church with one acre, valued at 40s. and the abbot of Holm had the soc; Turolde held it under the earl at the survey. John, earl Warren was lord in 15th of Edward I. and had view of frankpledge, assise of bread and ale, etc., and free warren. In the 9th of Edward II., the Pastons held it of the said lord, as they had done for many years,"¹⁰ paying dues to the manor and soke of Gimingham.

BRADFELD.

Bradfield was another manor of the de Warennnes, which was held of them in 1315-16 by the heirs of de Plays. At the time of Domesday Book it seems to have had no separate existence and was included in the manors of Trunch and Gimingham.¹¹

SWAFIELD.

The de Warennnes also claimed a part of Swafield as member of their Soke, but the Bishops of Norwich asserted a prior right to it. It was said that the earls had obtained possession "unjustly . . . however the Bishop's right to it was not forgot so late as 1300, the writer of the Norwich Domesday observing that though John, Earl of Warren then had it, it was said to be in right of the Bishop's fee . . . and a member of his Lordship of Elmham, be this as it will it never more returned to the See but continued with the Estates of the Earles of Warren and Surrey passing with them to the Dukes of Lancaster, as member of their manor of Gimingham."¹²

The "Duke's Head Inn" in Swafield bears witness to the fact that the village once formed part of the estates of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

NORTH WALSHAM.

It has already been said that the de Warennnes held land and certain franchises in North Walsham. This small property did not form an integral part of the Soke, although occasionally as a matter of convenience it was reckoned in with the Soke villages.

HULVER IN ANTINGHAM.

The next outlying block of land to be added to the Soke was the small manor of Hulver¹³ in Antingham which "Henry II. gave

10. Blomefield, Vol. XI., p. 58.

11. *Ibid.*, p. 6. It later became an independent manor, Edward Germyne being lord, Tempus Elizabeth.

12. See Norris, *Hundred of Tunstead*.

13. Hulver=Holly.

to Hamelin Plantagenet, earl Warren and Surrey. In 3 Edward I. "John, earl Warren had a homage here, valued at £10 per ann."¹⁴ Hulver was completely incorporated with Gimingham, and the manor rolls are full of business relating to it. This small manor was also known as Antingham-Hamlyns.¹⁵

It is to be feared that the officers of the manor of Gimingham were inclined to be a high handed lot of men judging from the complaints against them which we find in the Crown Plea Rolls for 52-53 Henry III. and 14 Edward I.,¹⁶ and in the Hundred Rolls, 1275.¹⁷ William de Goldingham, the seneschal and Ralph de Reppes, serjeant of Gimingham were the chief offenders. Mr. Rye's abstracts give such a good picture of the times that I have ventured to transcribe several pages of extracts relating to Gimingham.

CROWN PLEA ROLL.

52-53 HENRY III.

"That John, Bailiff of Gytingham, took from Bartholomew de Repps two marks, because the said Bartholomew came by summons of the king before the king's bailiff. John cannot deny this, and so must answer for the said marks."

"Also that he took of Edmund de Repps, by threats and unjust distrains, fifteen marks, etc. Edmund also complains that he and Avicia his wife sold the marriage of Bartholomew son of Roger de Coleville to a certain Adam de Musters for ten marks, and the said John distrained Edmund by all his goods until he forgave the said Adam the ten marks. John denies this. Richard, bailiff of Thunstede, complains of said John, that whilst he was holding a view of frankpledge at Paston, on Wednesday next to the feast of the Nativity of St. John this year, John de Melwode came and took his horse worth a mark, and harness worth 5s. and detained them."

"That a certain Constance, concubine of John the priest of

14. Bl. VIII., p. 80.

15. TUNSTEAD.—At a later date the Duchy of Lancaster holding in Tunstead appears to have been included with the Soke of Gimingham in such matters as were dealt with by the Duchy Court, and we find amongst the transactions of that Court in the 17th century several suits referring jointly to the "spoyle of woods" in both Tunstead and Gimingham. I do not think, however, that there was ever any real connection between the two manors.

16. From "Crime and Accident in the time of Henry III. and Edward I." by Mr. Walter Rye. *Norfolk Antiquarian Miscellany*, Vol. II., p. 159 et seq.

17. *N. Exp.*, p. 223.

Gymingham, bore him a child in the house of the rector of the Church of Gymingham, and that the said John (bailiff) broke into the house at night by his men and took the woman and her bed to the "Hall" of Gymingham, and there imprisoned her till the said priest paid a fine of 40s. to deliver her, and he also took of the said "chaplain" a certain rent for two years. This he cannot deny."

"Afterwards the said John comes and offers £100 to the king for the remission of the suit, and also that satisfaction may be made to each of those complaining of him, etc. Therefore it is secured by the pledges of William le Parker, William de Fleg, Robert de Reppes, William de Felmingham, Thomas de Begerill, Andrew de Brampton, Roger de Felebrig, John de Saham, Elias de Causton, Hugh de Aleby, Roger le Marchante, and Robert Felaghe."

14 EDWARD I.

"Of liberties, they find that John de Warren, Earl of Surrev, claims wreck wherever his lands in the Soke of Gimingham are next the shore, and also gallows, view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, and free warren in the same soke, and also market in each week on Saturdays in his manor of Trunch."

"The jury present that William de Goldyngham, formerly seneschal of Earl Warren, and Hugh de Welyngham, servant of the said earl, took Warin, son of Christiana, and William his brother, William Wende, Henry Wende, and Ralph Seby in Gillyngham (sic) and put them into a house within the Court of Gymingham, and closed up the door of such house with nails, and detained them there in prison till they paid a fine of 10s. William comes and makes (pays) a fine as appears under the hundred of Thetford. Hugh is not to be found."

"Also that Roger Gyffyn of Monesle, the bailiff of John de Warenn, Earl of Surrey, at Gymingham, and Warin Cokschyteneye of Paston, and others unknown, took away the farm horses of Warin fil' Christiana and William his brother, and of William Wende and others in town of Ovestronde, outside the fee of the said earl, and drove them to Gymingham, and there kept them in pound till them agreed a fine."

"William Dekker, warrener of Earl Warren, extorted 5s. of Ralph Moryn."

The complaints in the Hundred Rolls are as follows:—"William de Goldingham, seneschal of Earl Warenn, hindered Richard de Coteford, the king's servant, from delivering the cattle of Bartholomew de Antingham, detained in William's bailiwick against bade and pledge." And later on, Bartholomew de Antingham complains that Eustace de Poringland, clerk of William Gyffard the sheriff,

refuses to execute the writ for the recovery of his cattle "which were taken at Gymingham . . . to the damage of Bartholomew of half a mark."

"Edmund *fil' Richard* of Gymingham, and other of John Earl Warren's men of Gimingham Soke, distrained on the Coast of Crowmere unjustly, outside the earl's fee in the king's liberty, and often impede the king's bailiff."

"William de Goldingham . . . unjustly fined Jurdan Scuan of Antingham 12d."

"William de Goldingham . . . imprisoned in the hall of Gimingham Warin *fil' Er* . . . of Overstronde, William his brother, William Wende, and Egidius Sely, and kept them in prison till they paid 40s. to Warin de Clochus, a villein of Earl Warren's, and 20s. for the earl's use."

"Ralph de Repp, by the order of William de Goldingham, . . . unjustly took a mark of the town of Overstrond, outside the earl's fee."

"William Forestar of Gymingham, by direction of Ralph de Reppes, Serjeant of Gymingham, came to the sea coast at Crowmere, which is outside the Earl Warren's fee, and attached one sail of a ship, and detained it unjustly till he received 2s. of the master of such ship."

Earl Warenne's servants were not always the aggressors, they sometimes were the victims, as for instance when Richard the "Warenar" was robbed of 4d. by one Robert de Causton. But as a rule, I am afraid that they must have been the petty tyrants of the district and were probably well hated by the tenants of the Soke.

But, after all, those were rough times and there was a terrible amount of crime amongst the villagers themselves, "battle, murder and sudden death" being common enough occurrences. Turning again to the Crown Plea Rolls we find a very grim catalogue of violent deaths within the Soke in the short space of five years (*viz.* 34, 41, 52, 53 Henry III. and 14 Edward I.).¹

34 HENRY III.

"Elviva de Gimingham was found drowned in a pit. Buried without sight of the coroner. Adjoining villages fined."

41 HENRY III.

"Henry Kaya was smothered in a certain marlpit in a field at Northrepps."

1. Mr. Rye comments on "the constant occurrence six hundred years ago in small villages of names still common among the cottagers in the same and adjacent places showing the tenacity with which peasant families cling to one locality." *N. Ant. Misc.*, Vol. II., p. 150.

"Alice, daughter of Adam, fell into a certain well in Gimingham, etc., and Peter Leivine (or possibly Lewine), one of the neighbours, did not come, etc., and was attached by Geoffrey Boye, Richard Suby, Richard Powel, and Wymer Wipping."

"Walter, son of Thomas, and Clarissa his sister, burned in the house of Ellen Pyeman in Ginmingham."

52 & 53 HENRY III.

"Agnes Dahle of Knapeton hung herself in Knapton. Her goods were worth 4s. 4d., which were to be answered for by the sheriff."

"Roger Suneman was found drowned in a well at Trunch. Verdict, mischance."

"Agnes, wife of Ralph Turb, hung herself in her husband's barn. Verdict *felo de se*."

"Warin the son of Basil, Roger Codlyng, and Robert Reynald were attached for her death; neither came nor were suspected, (but Warinus was attached by Robert Forester of Southrepps, and Warin provost of the same);² and Roger by Ralph Carte of Surepp, and Warinus provost of the same place; and Robert by Reginald, son of Walter of Southrepps, and Jerome Buck of the same place. Therefore they are all fined. Afterwards Warin comes. Therefore nothing is payable by him or his pledges."

"William de Scubeton was found dead in the court (yard?) of Mabel, widow of Bartholomew de Kykegate in the village of Southrepps. Hamo Wyllyot was presented because he was in the said court and did not come to the inquest. Attached by Adam Saleman and Ralph de Southrepps. Verdict, natural death."

14 EDWARD I.

"William le Warener of Gymyngham and Ralph, son of Nicholas de Applewerd fought in S. Repps, and Ralph killed William and fled."

"Estilda, the daughter of Nicholas Faber of Swathefield, cut her throat with a razor in the house of Hervey Beket of Knapton."

"William Ide and John Merle killed Hervey de Prato in the nighttime in Knapton and fled."

"Matilda, the wife of Walter le Shypman, was found slain in her husband's house at Monesle."

2. (words in brackets crossed out in the original).

"Adam Chyldefader of Gymingham was found drowned."

"Roger Styngyn of N. Repps was found dead. Walter de Chervele, Richard de Conteshal, and John Osbern were attached for his death, but did not appear. Walter was attached by Clement Giske and Walter Notyng of the same place, Richard by Robert Ladelman and Bartholomew Cariwen, and John Ledelman and Bartholomew Cariwen, and John by Nicholas Modyman and Richer fil' Othe. The jurors find he died a natural death."

We get several presentments of the flight of criminals.

41 HENRY III.

"Richard Puning (?) of Cnapeton fled and was accounted guilty of many thefts. He was in the tithing of William de Bosco of Knapeton."

14 EDWARD I.

"An unknown man, who was lodging in the house of Eudo Stalk in Monesle, stole, in the nighttime, two sheep belonging to Matilda Goye of Edesore in the same place. He was imprisoned, but escaped."

"The following are mentioned as having fled:—Cecily Munk of Repps (for theft and burglary), Henry Brese of North Repps, (burglary), Roger de Meyster of Sythestrunde. They are "exigent" (i.e., required to attend the law, followed by outlawry if this is disregarded after five proclamations, and then outlawed, and the women are to be "waived," (i.e., women not having to be sworn of the lete, were never properly speaking "in the law," so the term for them was "derelicta," waived, or left out.)"³

The escaping criminal often took sanctuary in a Church, as for example:—

52-53 HENRY III.

"Walter Helisent of Trunch took sanctuary in the Church of Trunch, acknowledged himself to be a thief and abjured the country. He was in the tithing of Alexander de Fonte in Trunch, who is therefore fined."

14 EDWARD I.

"Alice Grom of South Repps being prosecuted by Clement del Hyl for theft went into sanctuary."

"Roger de Cayley and Robert the groom (*valettus*) of Henry

3. See *N. Antn. Misc.*, Vol. II., p. 187.

de Brom, being prosecuted at the suit of the bailiffs of the hundred, took sanctuary in the Church of North Repps, and admitted themselves to be thieves."

Each village had a communal obligation not only with regard to its own criminals but was also liable to a penalty for harbouring criminals from outside.

34 HENRY III.

"Of those indicted the jury say that . . . Walter Reysside (and others) have withdrawn themselves, and are suspected . . . Walter Reyserside (Razor side) has no goods, and was harboured in the town of North Repps, outside (his?) tithing, for which such town is fined. (N.B. Every man was obliged to belong to some tithing. W.R.)."

14 EDWARD I.

"The town of Gymyngham pays for the goods of Hugh Spwe, (Sparrow?) who was hung, 3s. 8d.

"The town of Gymyngham pays for the goods of Clement Kylbyng (Kybyng? (C.M.H.) who was hung, 9s. 2d. and for the goods of Clement Truket, (hung) 6s. 8d." In the same year we read too that "Cecilia Hestyng arrested by Geoffry Wodecock, catchpoll (?) for burglary in the house of Clement, the son of the parson of Gunton, is given into the charge of the village of Trunch. While being taken to Norwich gaol she escapes, and is afterwards retaken, but found not guilty."

There are two cases of faulty measures:—

52-53 HENRY III.

"The corn measures in the towns of Haneworth, Gymyngham, and Beston are larger than other measures."

14 EDWARD I.

"Presentments that . . . Alexander de Suthrepps (and others) sell by measures against the assize."

In 34 Henry III. there is a presentment "that Richard de Playz holds a knight's fee, and is of full age, but is not yet a knight; therefore he is fined."⁴

Practically all the remaining entries on the Crown Plea Roll refer to matters relating to the Royal Courts. We learn that in 34 Henry III. the "bailiff for N. Erpingham was William Tyrel; and the jurors Roger de Berningham, Hugh de Antingham, Richard de Reyms, William de Hereworth (Hanworth?), Roger Bacun, John

4. "One knights fee obliged the owner to take the order of knight-hood." Blomefield.

de Curcun, Hervey de Shypeden, John Red, Robert Curcun, Roger de Antingham, Clement de Westwood and Eustace de Turgarton."

The following fines were received from the villages of the Soke:—

"Villata de Gimingham p eode, xx sol.

Villata de Trimmingham p eode, jm.

Villata de Trunch p eod ijm.

Villata de Sudreppes p eod, xl sol.

D. Villata de Northrepps p recep Walti Reiseside ex^a. decn^a. v. mr.

D. Rico de Playz q uo dum miles, xl sol."

Amongst those fined for not attending the first day of the Hundred Court, 41 Henry III., are earl Warren, Roger de Gimingham, and John, parson of Southrepps.

In 52-53 Henry III., "Nicholas Knebyn of Northrepps is a defaulter at the Court."

In 14 Edward I. the jurors of the Hundred included Hugh de Reymes, Robert Hereward and Edmund de Reples, and amongst others the following were fined for non-attendance, "Thomas Kok, parson of Northrepps, Clement Grycke of Overstronde, Roger de Methwold of Gytingham, Stephen Puty of the same place, John, Earl Warenn, and William de Warenn his son." The name of Henry le Noble, seneschal to Earl Warenn occurs.

In the same year we also find a complaint against William de Redham, "late sheriff," for extorting "half-a-mark of William Queyntment of Sithestronde, half-a-mark of John de la Chaumbre of Gytingham, (and) half-a-mark of Alice Caunning, Nicholas del Hil, Agnes Cuttyng, Clement Partrych."

The Subsidy Rolls are another source of information respecting the inhabitants of the Soke in the early days of Edward III., whilst the de Warennes were still its lords. A complete transcript of these Subsidy Rolls for the Soke villages will be found at the end of this chapter. They contain a large number of names which recur subsequently in the Court Rolls and other manor documents, notably i.a. (in Gimingham) Drury, Brante, Rook, atte Bure, atte Chirche, de Bradefeld, P'tryk (Pertrik, Partrick), Powel, atte Gate, Spriggi, and it is curious to find two men with the surname *le Gaunt* in the manor which within a few years passed to John of Gaunt; (in Knapton) de Plaiz, atte ffen, atte Heithe, atte Wode, Kibbyng, Bomond (or Bemond), Grey, Brynyng, Grymme, atte Medwe, Kyng, Pecoock; (in Mundesley), Spriggy, Gotte, Gees, Cunteman (or Queyntman); (in N. Repps), de Crosdale, le Neve, de Reppes, Rainald, Rugge, Trenchemer, Chapman, Waryn; (in S. Repps), Skutting, de Reppes, Madour, Calk (att Calk), Payn, Crenale; (in Sidestrond) de Poynt-

ings, Coleman, Spilman, Starling, Qwenteman, de Cydestrond, atte Wode, Berd; (in Trunch), Alen (Aleyne), Pynnyng, Bemound, Spriggy, atte Market, de Gyvingham; (in Trimingham), Brante (Briant), Bauchoun and Pakeman. Not a few of these names have survived to the present day and are still common in the district.

When the last earl Warenne died in 1347 the manor was still a living social organism, with its *tenant in capite*, and below him the knightly families, the socmen, the villeins, the cottars and the serfs. But for some while past a subtle change had begun to be felt, which in a short time was to revolutionise the manorial institution, and overthrow both military and servile tenure. The new factor in social life was *money*. The scarceness of current coin in earlier days had precluded its general use as a medium of exchange and payment, and manual and military services and payments in kind had been the substitutes for both rent and wages. But money was more available as time went on, and even as far back as 1159 "the military obligation of knight service was for the first time commuted for a money payment or tax on the knights fee."⁵ This saved the knight the inconvenience of being liable to foreign service and gave the king and the tenants in chief the double convenience of a full purse and an ever ready army of mercenaries. The tax on the knight's fee was called *Scutage* or shield money, and was levied at the rate of £1 6s. 8d. on the £20 fee. The tenant-in-chief was responsible for its collection, but it was not a profitable tax and by 1322 it had fallen into disuse. It, however, marked a change of principle, obligations once performed in person could now be avoided by a money payment, and the same principle was making itself felt in the relations of the lord and his humbler bond-tenants. Freedom could be bought, and when once the manumission deed was purchased the lord could no longer claim the unpaid servile labour of a bondman, but had instead to pay a reasonable money wage to a free employee.

This chapter on the Soke of Gimingham under the de Warennnes may well end with the *Inquisition Post Mortem* taken on the death of the last earl in 1347.

INQUISITION POST MORTEM.

21 Edw. III. Chancery, File 86.

(Ex^d. with Duchy of Lancaster Miscell. 4/9).

Inquisition taken at Gymyngham in Co. Norfolk before William de Middleton Escheator of Norfolk 19 July 21 Edward III. (A.D.) by the oath of Bartholomew de Reppes, James de Pykeneye,

5. Dowell, *Hist. of Taxes and Taxation*.

Clement Herin [?], John Toly de Walssyngham, Robert Trenchmer, William de Cranhous, Robert Burchard, William Overbekes, Robert Colman, William Hunte, John atte Medwe and Thomas Sprugge⁶ who say upon their oath that John de Warren late Earl of Surrey held on the day on which he died the manor of Gymyngham with appurtenances and the advowsons of the churches of Southrepps, Northrepps, Trymyngham, Munsle, Edyesthorpe, Bradefeld, Swathefeld, Beston, Gresham, the Abbey of Marham and the advowsons of the churches of Systronde and Aylmerton belonging to the manor of Gymyngham, the manor of Beston with appurtenances, the manor of Medelwolde with appurtenances, the hundreds of Galhowe and Brothercros, twenty fees and one half and one third part of one knight's fee with appurtenances in Hunton [and other places set out] of the lord the king in chief of the demise of Thomas late Earl of Lancaster, uncle of Henry, now Earl of Lancaster, by fine in the court of the Lord King Edward, father of the now king, by his licence levied so that after the death of the aforesaid Earl of Surrey the aforesaid manors and hundreds with appurtenances and the advowsons aforesaid should revert to the before named Earl of Lancaster and his heirs and they say that the aforesaid manor of Gymyngham is held of the king in free socage by the service of one "campnolle." There is there in truth one capital messuage which is worth by the year in all issues according to the true value of the same 12d. clear. Also there are there eleven score acres of arable land which is worth by the year 110s. price of the acre 6d. Also there are there 13 acres of meadow for mowing which is worth by the year 26s. Also there are there 10 acres of pasture which are worth by the year 5s. Also there is there a certain park containing 200 acres whereof the herbage is worth by the year 100s. Also there is there a certain wood containing 60 acres whereof the herbage is worth by the year 20s. Also there are there within the precinct of the same manor in divers places 60 acres of pasture which are worth by the year 20s. Also there are there 4 windmills and one water mill which are worth by the year 20 marks. There is there of rent of assize by the year

The Tenure.

The Manor House.

220a. of arable at 6d. per acre.

13a. of meadow, value 26s.

10a. of pasture, 5s.

Park of 200a. value 100s.

60a. of wood, 20s.

60a. of pasture, 20s.

The Mills.

Rent of Assize.

6. Probably one of the family of Spriggy of Mundesley.

Services.

Profits of Court.

Trunch Market fallen
to 10s.

£30 namely at the feasts of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, Pentecost, and St. Michael. There are there works services and customs of customary tenants which are worth by the year 10 marks, also pleas and perquisites of courts with leets there worth by the year £30. There is there a certain market at Trunch which is worth by the year 10s. And they say that the aforesaid hundreds, lands, tenements, fees and advowsons of the lord the King in chief by knights service. And they say that the reversion of the aforesaid manors, vills, hundreds, lands, tenements, fees and advowsons of churches, and other things with appurtenances belongs to Henry now Earl of Lancaster kinsman and heir of the aforesaid Thomas late Earl of Lancaster by virtue of the demise and fine aforesaid. And they say that the aforesaid John Earl of Surrey died on Thursday on the eve of the apostles Peter and Paul last part. And that Richard Earl of Arundel is next heir of the same John and is of full age.⁷

7. In Le Neve's MS. collection in the Bodleian (Vol. I., folio 137) there is a transcript of an inquisition taken on the occasion of the death of the same earl, which gives us the additional information that the "marcate" was held in "Mur Hall" wherever that might be. The translator makes a mistake in writing that the manor was "held in socage by the services of a bell," a mis-translation of "campnolle" which really signifies some kind of toadstool or mushroom. The quotation from Le Neve is found in Rye's *North Erpingham*, p. 63.

APPENDIX I.

LETTERS DATED FROM GIMINGHAM.

(From the Register of Archbishop Peckham, "Registrum Epistolarum Fratris Johannes Peckham, Archiepiscopi Cantuariensis," edited by C. T. Martin in the Rolls Series.)

CXXVIII., p. 153.

(1280).

13 Dec.

Will grant John de Ausone longer license to study at Paris, when he knows how he has spent his time there. R.f. 94 b.

TO EDWARD I.

A tres noble Seygnur Edward, Deu grace rey de Engleteere, seygnur de Irlaunde, duc de Aquitayne, frere John le prestre de Caunterbire saluz en grant reverence. Sire, sachez ke par la priere le esveske de Norwiz, jes otriay a Johan de Ausone, persone de Wimbeldon, ke il pust demurrer a Parys al escolle treis auns estudiant en divinute, e ke il tant dementers apreist del Engleis pur enseigner sun poeple en lu e en tens. E il, si cumme mau reconisant grace ke jeo li ay fete, ne me fine de angoyser par diverse prieres, ke jeo li enloyngue sun terme, plus ceo crei pur mettre sa ferme a poynt, ke pur amur de la divinute. Et se il ne esteit pur lamur de vostre reverence, vreielement jeo le retrerreie kant ke jeo ly ay otrie, mes nepurkant pur ceo ke vos prieres ne soient voides, quant jeo saverai comment il avera despendu les treis auns, jeo frai de greignur respit la volente de Dueu la vostre, se il seit issi convenable as almes ke il ad en garde. E, sire, pur Deu mercy ne vous mellez de gens que ben de seinte iglise turnent en marchandise. Sire, Deus gard vostre seygnurie e quant ke vous amez. Ceste lettre fu escrite a Gymmyngham, le jour Seynte Lucie.

[CXXX., p. 154.]

R. f. 25 b.

To Roger de Longespee, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. A Latin letter stating that the Archbishop has authorised Philipp of Cornwall to complete the visitation of his diocese. Dec. 13th., 1381.

"Datum apud Gymingham, id. Decembrio, anno Domini MCC. octogesimo, consecrationis nostræ secundo."

[CXXXI., p. 155.]
f. 25 b.

To Philip de St. Augustino. A commission to complete a process begun in the visitation of the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield.

"Datum apud Gymnyngham". . . . etc.

[CXXXII., p. 156,
157, 158.]
f. 25 b.

To the bishop of Chichester, desiring him "to pay 20*l.* to the merchants of Lucca, as his share of money lent for the affairs of the bishops and clergy of the province in the time of Kilwardby⁸—

Ending:—

"Datum apud Gymmyngham

Ista forma scribitur omnibus episcopis subscriptis.

Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis debet XX libras.

*Episcopus Wigorniensis, viij*l.* vjs. iiij*d.**

Episcopus Oxoniensis, Lviij. marcas.

Episcopus Conventrensis, L. marcas.

*Episcopus Sancti David, xix*l.* xiijs. iiij*d.**

*Episcopus Norwicensis, lviij*l.* vjs. iiij*d.**

*Episcopus Heliensis, iiij*l.* iiij*s.**

Episcopus Landavensis, X marcas.

*Summa . . . ccviij*l.* iiij*s.* viij*d.**

[XXXI., p. 38.]
1279.

TO THE EARL OF SURREY.

Asks him to attend to his tenants' complaint about the excessive quantity of game on his land. R. f. 157 b.

Nobile viro et amico in Christo carissimo, domino J. Warenn', Comiti Surreyæ, frater J., etc., Omnipotentis gratiam et benedictionem. Dilectionem vestram quantum possumus rogamus et in Domino exhortamur, quatenus clamorem qui contra vos est habitus a subditis vestris super intolerabili excessu ferarumstrarum seu bestiarum sedare velitis, ad augmentum honoris et famæ vestræ cum eisdem subditis, ad salutem animæ vestræ misericorditer et humiliter componendo, advertentis quod per hujusmodi quasi vobis inutilia non decet vestros subjectos affligere; ad quorum protectionem et regimen tenemini, cum opus fuerit manus extendere ex administratione quam vobis Altissimus duxit temporaliter dum sibi placuerit committendam.

8. Robert Kilwardby, a Dominican, Archbp. of Canterbury, resigned 1278.

APPENDIX II.

TAXATION AS AN AID TO THE LOCAL HISTORIAN, with transcripts of the Subsidy Rolls 1 and 6 Edward III.

We have seen that Domesday Book itself was a *geld-book*, although to us it is of far greater value as a survey and description of land and land-holders. Similarly in subsequent taxation the historian finds much to interest him in the lists of men and property supplied by the tax rolls.

The Danegeld was a land tax levied on the Hide, and at the Conquest the same principle was continued, with the Hide and the Carucate as the units of taxation, and to it was added the various levies of the complicated feudal system.

We find the earls Warenne as the tenants-in-chief, with many small tenants holding from them, besides one or two families holding their lands by military tenure.

On three special occasions the tenants of the King were liable to give an *Aid* or *Auxilium*—(1) on the knighting of the King's eldest son; (2) on the marriage of the King's eldest daughter; (3) as a ransom for his person, should the King be taken captive.

In the Aid made by Henry III. in his 21st year, on the occasion of the marriage of his sister to the King of the Romans we find that in "Gynyngham Comes War'n tz Maneriu de Gynyngham de d'no Rege in Capite," and that in "Knapton Her' de Plaiz tz in Knapton unu feod milit' de Com' Surr' ut de Honore de Lewes, et idem Honor de d'no Rege."¹ And similar entries occur on various other occasions, viz., the knighting of the King's eldest son in the 20th year of Edward III., etc. In the Aid of 3rd Henry IV. we find Sir John Howard holding the Knapton fee as heir of the de Plays'.

The last carriage was in 1224. Dowell tells us that "the tax was difficult to assess, and its incidence touched only the limited class of agriculturists. Henceforth the system of taxation by grants of fractional parts of moveables superseded this partial tax." The "Saladin Tithe" of 1188² had been the first attempt to introduce

1. *N. Eng.* p. 215, 216.

2. The collection of the Saladin Tithe took place in the Churches, the money being gathered into large chests, excommunication being the penalty for making false returns.

this new form of tax, into which eventually "the land tax on the knight's fee, the tallage of royal demesne, and the other forms of direct taxation merged." The tax reached all classes, for the term "moveables" included the farmer's "cattle, farming stock, and corn and other produce of lands," and also "the furniture, money and stock-in-trade of the burgher."³

It became the custom from 1334 onwards to levy a tax of a *fifteenth* and *tenth* always on the same assessment, and this for a long while was the basis of taxation and produced the *fixed sum* of £39,000, quite apart from the value of the property taxed. Any attempt to alter this method of taxation was vigorously opposed by the people of England and was doomed to failure, and even now "the consequences of the arrangement made in 1334 for the local assessment and collection of the fifteenth and tenth are clearly visible in England."

The most notorious tax of this period was the Poll Tax. The "Tallage of Groats" of 1377 was practically a hearth-tax, and it also demanded a sum of "four pence to be taken from the goods of each person in the kingdom, men and women, over the age of fourteen years, except only real beggars." Two years later a graduated poll-tax was imposed, the Dukes paying as much as £6 13s. 4d., and the poorest householder contributing 4d. for himself and his family.

The country was at this time seething with discontent, and ready to rise in insurrection at the least provocation. They resented the Poll Taxes and their method of collection. The authorities tried to temper the animosity of the poorer tax-payers by borrowing the French principle of *le fort portant le faible*, and encouraged the rich to take a voluntary share in the payment of their poorer countrymen's taxes, but in spite of this effort towards conciliation the discontent of the labourers only increased and a few months later it culminated in the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

The Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1 and 6 Edward III. furnish us with a full list of the names of taxpayers in the Soke of Gimmingham at that period. They are transcribed here from Mr. Rye's "Materials for a History of the Hundred of North Erpingham," Part II.

3. Moveables = "corn, ploughs, sheep, cows, pigs, horses, cart-horses, horses used for agricultural purposes, etc., but the following horses were usually exempt:—(A) the *dextarius* or war horse, "as led by the Squire with his right hand; (B) the *runcinus* or rouncey, "the horse of an attendant or servant." Chaucer's seaman, in the prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*, "roode upon a rouncey as he couthe"; (C) the palfrey, usually the horse of a lady or an ecclesiastic. Riding and sumpter horses were also exempted, as were personal jewels and clothes, vessels of gold and silver, and "the goods of any man not amounting to 55s. in value." (Dowell).

VILLATA DE GYMYNGHAM.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Comite Warenne.....xxs. j <i>d</i> .	D. D'no Com. de Warenn'..xxvj <i>d</i> .
Rob'to de Methelwolde.....x <i>d</i> .	Thom' Spriggi.....xiiij <i>d</i> .
Samuele Drury .....ix <i>d</i> .	Rico Drury.....xi <i>d</i> .
Cecill Brante .....x <i>d</i> .	Walt'o Rok .....xx <i>d</i> .
Joh'ne Kytlyngg.....vj <i>d</i> .	Matill' Wynd .....ijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Henr' Tutyngg .....ix <i>d</i> .	Will'o de Hamton.....ijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Will'mo Hampstone.....xi <i>d</i> .	Simon Paune .....ij <i>d</i> .
Simon Paunne .....xi <i>d</i> .	Gervas Skot.....xx <i>d</i> .
Will'mo Rook .....xi <i>d</i> .	Clemente Horn .....xiiij <i>d</i> .
Clem'te atte Grene.....ijs. vj <i>d</i> .	Joh'ne Spriggi .....iij <i>s</i> . iiij <i>d</i> .
Clem'te atte Bure.....xx <i>d</i> .	Clem'nte atte bour.....ijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Joh'ne le Gaunt.....xvii <i>d</i> .	John'ne Siger .....xi <i>s</i> .
Thoma' atte Chirche.....xvii <i>d</i> .	Ric'o atte Yate .....iij <i>s</i> .
Clem'te de Bradefeld.....xi <i>d</i> .	Gervas Powel.....xi <i>d</i> .
Thoma' P'tryk .....xv <i>d</i> .	Will'o Powel.....xx <i>d</i> .
Clem'te le Gaunt.....vs. v <i>d</i> .	Will'o attonyate .....xi <i>d</i> .
Will'o de Stokesby.....x <i>d</i> .	Thom' atte chirch .....ij <i>d</i> .
Galfrid' de Hestyngg.....xvii <i>d</i> .	Thom' atte chirche.....xi <i>d</i> .
Gervas Powel.....xi <i>d</i> .	John Gauc' .....iiij <i>d</i> .
Will'mo atte Gate .....xi <i>d</i> .	Thoma Pertrik.....ijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Avic' atte Gate.....xvii <i>d</i> .	Mariot Gauc' .....ij <i>d</i> .
Tax { Alano Abot ...ijs.	Will'o Skot .....ij <i>d</i> .
Thoma' de Stan-	Ric'o atte Yate.....xvii <i>d</i> .
ford xijs.	Josep Hastings.....ijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Sma. ....ls. v <i>d</i>	Rog'o Colle.....xiiij <i>d</i> .
	Walt'o fil' Will'i.....xi <i>d</i> .
	Rob'to de Methelwolde .....xi <i>d</i> .
	Will'o Galle .....xi <i>d</i> .
	Simon Glonde .....vii <i>d</i> .
	Margar' Abot .....vii <i>d</i> .
	Alano Abot.....xi <i>d</i> .
	Thoma' de Bradefete
	[?Bradefelde] xi <i>d</i> .
	Sma. pb. lxxviijs. ij <i>d</i> .

KNAPETONE.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Margar' De Plaiz .....vs.	D' Dn'o Thom' de Burg'...vj <i>s</i> . x <i>d</i> .
Will mo Alunday .....iij <i>s</i> .	Will'mo Alunday .....vs.
Clem'te atte ffen.....iiij <i>s</i> . ix <i>d</i> .	Clement atte fen .....vii <i>d</i> .
Will'mo atte Heithe.....	Will'mo atte fen.....vj <i>d</i> .

KNAPETONE—*continued.*

Galfr' atte Wode	vjd.	Rog'o Kibbyng	xvj <i>d.</i>
Clem' atte Wode.....		Rob'to le Warde junior.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Martino Kibbyng		Rob'to le Warde senior.....	xvj <i>d.</i>
Thoma De Boythorp.....	vjd.	Matill' Kybbyng	xx <i>d.</i>
Rich'o Ode.....	vjd.	Clem'te atte wode.....	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Rob'ts Cl'ico.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Galf'ro atte wode	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Clem'te Kynge	xx <i>d.</i>	Will'mo atte heyth	xvj <i>d.</i>
Alic' de Nethergate	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Galfr' Wyther	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Will'mo Mey.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Edmo' Pykkebarlyk	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Edm'o Fraunceys	iijs. ii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	John'ne Grey	iiijs.
Rog'o de Nethergate.....	i <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Galf' atte fen.....	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Adam Anound	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Rad'o Mey	xxi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Clem'te de Nethirgate.....	i <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Will'o Brynyng	xvii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Galfro Funke.....	ii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Cecil' Brynyng.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Thoma Funk	xvii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Joh'ne Edysson	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Rich'o de Nethirgate.....	vjd.	Will'o Edysson	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Margar' atte Wentte	vjd.	Clem'te Edesson	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Galfr' atte Felgap.....	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Rog'o Bukelard	xd.
Rad's Gunneld.....	xii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Elvena Wyther.....	xd.
Will'mo atte wend'	xii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Thom' Wyther	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Mabill' Pynnyngg	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Thom' Snellyng.....	xx <i>d.</i>
Margar' Sare	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Clem'te Brinyng	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Galfr'o Sare	xx <i>d.</i>	Joh'ne Brinyng	xd.
Rich's Corneys	xd.	Rad'o Wynnok	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Rich's Colfnem (?)	xv <i>d.</i>	Alic' Kyng.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Thoma atte fen	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Rad'o Wygge.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Rog'o de Crostweyt.....	vjd.	Joh'e Pykeden.....	xvii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Galfr'o fil' Gilb'ti.....	i <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Will'o Wynnok	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Warino Miller.....	vjd.	Angr' Do	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Joh'ne Forte.....	vij <i>d.</i>	Rad'o Riccur (or Rittur).....	xx <i>d.</i>
Thoma atte Well.....	ijs. iii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Adam Bonyng	id.
Joh'ne filio Rici'.....	ijs. vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Joh'ne Bil.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Will's Hereinpol	vjd.	Nich'o Grymme.....	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Will's Bomond (?).....	vjd.	Joh'ne atte medwe	vs.
Hug' atte Wode.....	xd.	Cecil' q' fut ux' Rob'ti le clerk	xd.
Rad'o atte Wode.....	ii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Rich'o Kyng	xx <i>d.</i>
Rad'o atte Fen	vjd.	Rob'to Kyng cap'llo.....	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Clem'te Cropping	xvj <i>d.</i>	Rog'o de Nethergate.....	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Will'o filio Elgory.....	vjd.	Will'o Mey	xiii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Galfr'o Wych.....	xx <i>d.</i>	Edm'o Fraunceys	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Rob'to Stulle.....	xi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Clem'te fil' Rici.....	xd.
Joh'ne Grey	ijs. i <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Ad' Hamu'd	xvii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Henr' Narke	vjs.	Thom'e Pecoock (?).....	xxi <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>
Galfr'o atte fen.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>	Margar' Attewend.....	vii <i>j</i> <i>d.</i>

KNAPETONE—*continued.*

Clem'te atte fen.....	xviij <i>d.</i>	Rad'o Deynessone.....	vii <i>d.</i>
Clem' Roche	v <i>d.</i>	Joh'ne Gundel	xi <i>d.</i>
Rad's Mey	xviij <i>d.</i>	Will'o Attewend	xiii <i>d.</i>
Aqu' Bokelard	x <i>d.</i>	Joh'ne atte fen.....	xi <i>d.</i>
Will's fil' Joh'	xviij <i>d.</i>	Rob'to Clerk	xx <i>d.</i>
Beatr' Lokkyng	vii <i>d.</i>	Thom' Alunday.....	xi <i>d.</i>
Will'mo Brynyng	xviij <i>d.</i>	Beatr' Julle	vii <i>d.</i>
Heluena Wyther.....	v <i>d.</i>	Laur' de Monesle	i <i>d.</i>
Thoma Snellyngg	xviij <i>d.</i>	Matill' Snellyng.....	xi <i>d.</i>
Joh'ne Reed	v <i>d.</i>	Rad'o Julle.....	xi <i>d.</i>
Clem' Brynyngg	xiii <i>d.</i>	Matill' Pynnyng	xv <i>d.</i>
Clem' Corneys	ii <i>d.</i>	Ed'mo Red	xi <i>d.</i>
Will's Kyngg	v <i>d.</i>	Ric'o Serd'	xviij <i>d.</i>
Rad'o Whynnok	i <i>js.</i>	Galfr' de Ser.....	xviij <i>js.</i>
		Clem'te Carnific.....	ii <i>js.</i> v <i>d.</i>
		Rich'o Carnifer	xiii <i>d.</i>
		Rich'o Salsweyn	vii <i>d.</i>
		Will'o Bakest'e	vii <i>d.</i>
		Galfr'o Bakestere.....	ii <i>js.</i> vii <i>d.</i>
		Will'o Greyus.....	xi <i>d.</i>
		Thom' atte Welle	ii <i>d.</i>
		Joh'ne fil' Rici	ii <i>d.</i>
		Aug'n Gibbes	vii <i>d.</i>
		Galfri' Gibbesson	xi <i>d.</i>
		Will'o de H'tenepol.....	vii <i>d.</i>
		Rob'to Bruale	vii <i>d.</i>
		Will'o Bonyng	xi <i>d.</i>
		Rado atte wode.....	ii <i>d.</i>
		Nich'o atte fen.....	xv <i>d.</i>
		Hug' atte wode	xviij <i>d.</i>
		Rad'o Creppying	xi <i>d.</i>
		Alic' q fuit ux' John'nes atte heyth	vii <i>d.</i>
		Joh'ne Busset	xi <i>d.</i>
		Rich'o Bakest'e	vii <i>d.</i>
		Rich'o Ode	vii <i>d.</i>
		Rog'o de Neyirgate	xviij <i>d.</i>
		Galfr' atte faldgap'	xv <i>d.</i>
		Angn' atte medowe	xi <i>d.</i>
		Clem'te Reye.....	xi <i>d.</i>
		Alic' Eynolf	vii <i>d.</i>
		Joh'ne Rennesson	ii <i>d.</i>
		Clem'te de Skeynesbow.....	ii <i>d.</i>
		Sma. pb.	v <i>li.</i> xvi <i>js.</i> v <i>d.</i>

VILLATA DE MONESLEE.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Joh'ne Spriggy .....iij <i>s</i> . xj <i>d</i> .	D. Joh'e Spriggy .....iij <i>s</i> .
Laur' Spryggi .....xvj <i>d</i> .	Aungu (?) Spriggi .....ij <i>s</i> . vj <i>d</i> .
Agn' Spryggi .....xx <i>d</i> .	Laur' Spriggi.....xij <i>d</i> .
Eudone Red.....iij <i>s</i> . ix <i>d</i> .	Wydon' Red .....vj <i>s</i> . iij <i>d</i> .
Rob'to Gotte.....vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .	Will'o Attehil .....xx <i>d</i> .
Galford Catessone .....xiij <i>d</i> .	Rad'o Joye .....xvj <i>d</i> .
Will'o Gees	Rob'to Wodde (?)vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Nich'o Cole .....xxj <i>d</i> .	Matill' fil' Galfr' .....xvii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Will'mo Stevene.....vj <i>d</i> .	Will'o Cros (?).....ij <i>s</i> . vj <i>d</i> .
Edm'o Cunteman.....xxij <i>d</i> .	Nich'o Cole.....ij <i>d</i> .
Alic' Stalke .....xxij <i>d</i> .	Petr' Hawe .....xij <i>d</i> .
Joh'ne Gotte .....xij <i>d</i> .	John'ne Grace .....xxvii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Galfro' Calle.....x <i>d</i> .	Ed'o Cunteman .....ij <i>s</i> . ij <i>d</i> .
Alano Gotte .....xvii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .	Alic' Staluus (?)ij <i>d</i> .
Simone Calle.....x <i>d</i> .	Nich' Carey .....xij <i>d</i> .
Will'mo atte Gate.....xij <i>d</i> .	Will'o Stevene .....xij <i>d</i> .
Rob'to Doc (?).....xij <i>d</i> .	Simon Colke (?).....xx <i>d</i> .
Galfr'd Heyward.....xxij <i>d</i> .	Rob'to Gotte .....ij <i>d</i> .
Galfr'd Cary ⁴ .....xvj <i>d</i> .	Rog'o Filuz .....ij <i>s</i> . vj <i>d</i> .
Alano Epps .....x <i>d</i> .	Galfr' Wyneys .....xvj <i>d</i> .
Nich'o filio Radi .....xij <i>d</i> .	Rob'to Cary .....xij <i>d</i> .
Rog'o Dryncale.....xij <i>d</i> .	Joh'ne fil' Radi.....xvii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Simone Meye .....xj <i>d</i> .	Alano Ope .....xvii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Nich'o Gydyborn .....xij <i>d</i> .	Simon Cary, capell'.....vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Isabell Cary .....vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .	Will'o Broun .....xvii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Matild' atte Med'we.....ix <i>d</i> .	Nich'o Gos .....xvii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Tax {	Rog'o Finch .....ij <i>s</i> .
	Joh'ne Brun.....ij <i>s</i> . vj <i>d</i> .
	Galfr' Cary .....vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
	Joh'ne Brun .....xij <i>d</i> .
	Galfr' fil Will' .....xij <i>d</i> .
Sm. total.....xlj <i>s</i> . vj <i>d</i> .	Sma. pb. ....ls.

VILLATA DE NORTHREPPES.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Wareno filio Hugo ...ij <i>s</i> .	D. Joh'ne de Crosdale .....ij <i>d</i> .
Thoma Mounk (?).....vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .	Ric'o Tilleston .....xij <i>d</i> .
Molard	Will'o Carwen .....ij <i>s</i> . vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Rant (?)ix <i>d</i> .	Augu' le Neve .....vii <i>j</i> <i>d</i> .
Will' Abe .....xiij <i>d</i> .	Nich'o Chapman .....xx <i>d</i> .
Simon de Fellrigg.....ij <i>s</i> . ij <i>d</i> .	Willo Romeled .....iij <i>s</i> . iij <i>d</i> .

4. A field in Mundesley is still named "Carey lands."

VILLATA DE NORTHREPPES—*continued*.

Johne	Steph. Romelod.....	iijs. vjd.
Galfr'ad portam	Ca . . . atte fen.....	vjs. vjd.
Henr' atte Holt	Johne Romelod	vs. vjd.
Joh'ne Nonyngg (?Ponyngg)	Helewys Romelod	vs. vjd.
.....ijs. vijð.	Henrico Reynald	ijs. iijð.
Bart' ad bruar'	Willo Reye [sic].....	ijð.
Will'mo ad portam.....	Isabell Tebald	xxð.
Ric'o Noctyng (or Nottyng) ijs.	Nich'o Dobbessone	xxð.
Will'mo ad ecc'am	Joh'ne Reynald	ijs. iijð.
Rob'to Warner (?)	Ric'o Modeman.....	xxð.
Nich'o Marth'	Willo fil' Robti	xvijð.
Rob'to de Reppes	Nich'o le Miller.....	xvijð.
Alic' de Reppes.....	Rog'o Rug	iijs.
Joh'e . . . aren	John Taity	ijs. iijð.
Joh'e atte Crosdale	Will'o Reye junior	vijð.
Nich'o filio Ydanie	Galfr' Charwerd.....	iijs. vjd.
Will'o Perkys	H'veo Burgeis.....	iijs. ijð.
Will'mo Carowe	Will'o Crudde.....	xijð.
Ric'o Carowe	N'cho de Geyloe (?)	iijs. ijð.
Joh'ne Carowe.....	Alleyo Fraunceys	vijð.
Aqn' le Neve	Rob'to Flandr'm	xxð.
Will'o Romelot	Alano Best	xxð.
Helewis Romelot	Nich'o ad Fonton'	xijð.
Rob'to Rainald.....	Laur' ad Fonte	xvjd.
Will'mo Kye [sic].....	Joh'ne le Glaunvil.....	iijs. vjd.
Rob'to Pewe.....	Henr' attecroft	iiijð.
Regin' fil' Rob'.....	Rob'to de Reppis	xiiijð.
Nich'o fil' Robti	Nich'o March.....	xvijð.
Joh'e Reginald	Will'o ad ecc'iam	xvijð.
Rog'o Ruge.....	Ric'o Noctyng	ijs.
Rob'to Wodenn.....	Joh'ne Noctyng	ijs. vjd.
Galfr'o Thrurwerd	Ric'o atte yate	ijs. iiijð.
Nich'o Gosslot	Barth'o atte Heythe.....	ijð.
Alan Lese	Froveric Trenchem'	iiijð.
Henr' atte Welle	Joh'ne le Deye.....	vijð.
Nich'o atte Welle	Henr' atte hil	xvjd.
Henr' atte Cros.....	Galfr' ad Porta	ijs. iiijð.
Herm'o Burgeys.....	Will'o Ridekyn.....	vijð.
Tax {	Joh'ne ad Port	ijs. iiijð.
	Simon de Felbrigg.....	iiijð.
	Cleric' Rayto (or Playto).....	xvjd.
	Thom' le Munk	xxijð.
	Thom' Toft	xvijð.

VILLATA DE NORTHREPPES—*continued.*

Kat'ina Waryn	ijs. iiij <i>ð</i> .
Joh'ne Horko	xij <i>ð</i> .
Matill' Colvil	xij <i>ð</i> .
Matill' Cowe.....	vii <i>ð</i> .
Will'o Hedun.....	xij <i>ð</i> .
Nich'o atte yate	vii <i>ð</i> .
Will'o de Suthus	xij <i>ð</i> .
Joh'ne Fabr	vii <i>ð</i> .
Rob'to Trenchemer	xij <i>ð</i> .
Rob'to Warener	xij <i>ð</i> .
Sma. pb	v <i>li</i> . xs. x <i>ð</i> .

VILLATA DE SIDESTROND.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

D. Thoma de Ponyngges	xiijs. ijð.
Will'mo Coleman	.....xijð.
Walt'o Fot (or Foc)	.....xijð.
Galfrid Martyn	.....ijs.
Nich's Spilman	.....xviið.
Joh'ne Erl	.....vð.
Ric'o Spilman	.....xijð.
Will'hs filio Cecill	.....ixs.
Will'ms Berd	.....ijð.
Rog' Berd	.....vð.
Joh' filio Willi	.....ijð.
Ed' Kyngg	.....xijð.
Joh'ne Hoppe	.....iið.
Imama ux' Rob'ti	.....iijs. vð.
Matild' Qwenteman	.....xijð.
Rich'o Starling	.....vð.
Rob't Olman	.....vð.
Reg' Yetham	.....iið.
Rob'to Kyngg	.....xijð.
Will'ms Pynel	.....iið.
Henr' de Cydestrond	.....vs.
Warino fil' Hug'	.....vð.
Adam Foke	.....vð.
Ric'o Coleman	.....ixð.
Marg'ia Pynel	.....vð.
Rob't filio joh'is	.....vð.
Marger' Coleman	.....vð.
Rog' Godfelawe	.....vð.

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Thom' de Ponyngg...	xvs.
Martin Attewode	iiijs.
Will'o Hoppe	ijs.
Walt'o Foc (or Fot)	ij <i>ð</i> .
Nich'o Spilman	xvii <i>ð</i> .
Ric'o Spylman.....	xvi <i>ð</i> .
Will'o fil' Rog'o.....	xvii <i>ð</i> .
Joh'ne fil' Will'o.....	ijs. ij <i>ð</i> .
Imama relict'	iijs. ij <i>ð</i> .
Matill' relict'	ijs. iiij <i>ð</i> .
Rob'to Queynteme't	xij <i>ð</i> .
Joh'ne Queynteme't	xs.
Beatr' Martin	ijs.
Galfr' Martyn	ii <i>ð</i> .
Joh'ne Prenge	x <i>ð</i> .
Regin' Yedam.....	ii <i>ð</i> .
Rob'to fil' Bowtr' (?).....	ij <i>ð</i> .
Will'o Queynteme't.....	ijs. v <i>ð</i> .
Will'o Colman	iijs. iiij <i>ð</i> .
Emma Colman	xij <i>ð</i> .
Margar' Colman	vii <i>ð</i> .
Rob'to fil' Joh'nis	vii <i>ð</i> .
Will's fil' Rob'ti	xx <i>ð</i> .
Joh'ne Cone	xij <i>ð</i> .
Thom' Conie	ii <i>ð</i> .
Rob'to Yodam	xij <i>ð</i> .
Joh'ne Helibo	xvii <i>ð</i> .
Matill' Pynel	ijs. viii <i>ð</i> .

VILLATA DE SIDESTROND—*continued*.

Agn Gase	vjd.	Matill' Matelask	viijd.
Matill' de Matelask.....	vjd.	Will'o Berd	xijd.
Tax { Rob'to Qwenteman ...	xijd.	Rob'to Starlyng	xijd.
Rob'to filio Beatr'.....	xijd.	Sma.	lxxs. iiijd.
Sma.	lvij.		

VILLATA DE SUTHREPPES.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

D. . . . Skuttingg	
Arnald	
Adam	
. . . Skuttyng	vjd.
Steph' Skuttyng	vjd.
. . . a Saunce (?)	xijd.
Nich'o Mounk	xijd.
. . . de Laund	ijs. vjd.
. . . de Lound	ijd.
Joh'ne de Blochus.....	iijd.
Claric' de Blochus.....	xijd.
W. . . Bonde	xijd.
Joh'ne filio Barth'	iiijd.
Mabill de Reppes	ijd.
Joh'ne filio Joh'is	iiijd.
Edm'o Dobbyssone.....	ijd.
D. Joh'ne filio Walt'i	xijd.
Will'o Grice (?)	ijd.
Warino Faircok	ijd.
Will'o Faircok.....	ijd.
Barth'o Reynald	ijs. vjd.
Joh'ne Flodyng	iijs. vjd.
Warino Drask	ijs.
Nich'o Welliman	xijd.
Arnaldo Gotte, junr	xijd.
Nich'o de Appelyerd	vjd.
Edm'o de Appelyerd.....	xijd.
Rog'o Drask	ijs.
Joh'ne Calkman	iijs.
Barth'o Calkman	xijd.
Will'o de Horsseye.....	xviijd.
Joh'ne Scherberd	xijd.
Nicho Sibilie	ijs.
Martino de Forest	xijd.

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Gilb'to Colle.....	iijd.
Nich'o fil' Sibilie	vs.
Warino Sherberd.....	xviijd.
Will'o Horishegh	ijs. vjd.
Joh'ne att Gatt	ijd.
Thom' Osb'n.....	xijd.
Emm' Hub'e	ijs. iijd.
Edm'o de Apilyerd	xxd.
Vincent de Haubois	ijs. vjd.
Ernald Gotte	ijd.
Nich'o Welleman	xviijd.
Warino Drask	ijs. vjd.
Joh'ne Faircok	xvd.
Nich'o de Apilyerd.....	vjd.
Joh'ne Flodyng.....	xijd.
Barth'o Reynald	iiijd.
D. Will'o Faircok	iiijd.
Warino Faircok	ijs. vjd.
Warino Hepe	ijd.
Joh'ne de Lose (?)	xijd.
Edm'o Dobbess	ijd.
Will'o Dobbess.....	ijd.
Joh'ne Salman.....	xviijd.
Will'mo Saddyng.....	xiijd.
Warino de Brunstead	xviijd.
Hug' Gugel	iijs. vjd.
Joh'ne de Apelyerd	xiijd.
Ad' Saddyng	xijd.
Joh'ne Smyth.....	iijs. vjd.
Walt'o de Lose	ijd.
Joh'ne Salman	ijd.
Joh'ne fil. Johnis	iijd.
Barth'o de Reppes	ijs. vjd.
Is'att Lund.....	iijd.

VILLATA DE SUTHREPPES—*continued.*

Gibt'o Calle	ijs.	Will'o Madour.....	ijs. vjd.
Rob'to Stanherd.....	iijs.	Will'o Bonde	ijs. vjd.
Rob'to Birk	xijd.	Joh'ne de Blechous	iijs. iiijd.
Will'mo Hille	ijd.	Claric' de Blechous	xijd.
Joh'ne Fullero	xijd.	Margar' att Lund	iiijd.
Walt' atte Mille	xijd.	Will'o att Lund	xijd.
Joh'ne Sibessone	xijd.	Rob'to att Lund	ijs. vjd.
Clem' Sibessone	ijd.	Rog'o att Calk	ijd.
Joh'ne de Crechevill	xviijd.	Will'o Cake	xviijd.
Joh'ne Salman	xijd.	Clem't Sontyng	iijs. iiijd.
Adam Salman	ijd.	D. Ric'o Skuti'g	xviijd.
Will'o Salman.....	vjd.	Emma Sabbes	ijd.
Hug' Engel	ijd.	Alic' Skuti'g	iijd.
Will' Salman.....	xijd.	Rob'to Stannard	iiijd.
Joh'ne Rolvesson	xviijd.	Will'o Hille.....	ijs. vjd.
Tax {	Rob'to Fabro.....	Walt'o Dolle	xviijd.
	Will'o Madour	Ric'o Carte	xvd.
	Sma.	Joh'ne Welleman	xijd.
		Joh'ne fil' Gilbti.....	ijd.
		Clem'te Payn.....	xijd.
		Matill' de Crenale ⁵	ijd.
		Martino Forest	xijd.
		Clem't fil' Rob'ti	xijd.
		Sm. pb.	vjli. ix. jd.

TRUNCH.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Galfrid Alen	ixd.	D. Galfri' Aleyn	ijs. vjd.
Galfri' W'st	xijd.	Galfri' West	iiijd.
Clem' Estgat.....	iiijd.	Clem'te de Estgate	vs.
Nich'o Busyng	iijs. iiijd.	Nich's Dusyng	iijs. vjd.
Rob'to Danne	xijd.	Rob'to Danne.....	iiijd.
Walt'o Godefroy	xvjd.	Clem'to Danne.....	viijd.
Ric'o (?) Clement		Nich'o Spriggy	vjd.
Edm'o Godefroy	xijd.	Joh'ne de Wysete	iiijd.
Joh'ne Mazoun	xijd.	Rog'o Pynnyng	iiijd.
Rog'o Pynnyng	ijd.	Clem'te atte market	iijs. vjd.
Thoma' atte Market	ijs. vjd.	Adam Hulot	iijs. vjd.
Ham' Hulo	ijs. iiijd.	Joh'ne Hulot	ijd.
Edm'de de Gymnyngham.....	ijs. vjd.	. . . atte market.....	iiijd.

5. N.B. Crenel Fen in Gimingham.

TRUNCH—*continued*.

Ric'o Engelbrik	ijs. ijd.	Beatr' de Gymyngh'	iijs. vjd.
.....	xxd.	Allex Fabr'	iijs. vjd.
Joh'ne Bemound	xijd.	Ric'o Egnebrich.....	iijd.
Nich'o Alen	ixd.	Joh'ne Bomund	ijs.
Will'o Engel	xviijd.	Ric'o de Engate.....	xvd.
Nich'o Cante.....	xvd.	H'ves de Heye	xijd.
Thom' Pynnyne	jd.	Galf'r atte heyth	iijs. vjd.
Ric'o atte Lound	xijd.	Nich'o Wychys	xvd.
Ric'o atte hil	ijd.	Nich'o de Paston	xviijd.
Rogin' atte hil	xijd.	Nich'o Cauz.....	iijs. vjd.
Adam atte hil	xvjd.	Ad' Pynnyng	ijs. vjd.
Joh'ne Hosting	xviijd.	Ric'o Attelu'd	xijd.
(Eight illegible)		Mabill' Attehil.....	viijd.
Ric'o de Smithe	xijd.	Regin' Attehil	xxd.
(?) gate		Joh'ne Estyng	ijd.
Joh'ne de Smythe		Regin' Dauge	viijd.
(?) gate	xijd.	Clem'te Dauge	ijs. vjd.
Sma.	lxiijs. jd.	Joh'ne de Antingham	xxd.
		Joh'ne Wynter	xijd.
		Rob'to Engelb'rg'h'	ijs. vjd.
		Ric'o Rawe	xijd.
		Joh'ne Godefrey	xijd.
		Sma. pb.	iiij <i>li</i> . ivs. xd.

VILLATA DE TRYMINGHAM.

(1ST EDWARD III.)

(6TH EDWARD III.)

D. Joh'ne Strupe	ijs. ijd.	D. Alano de Methewold	xijd.
Joh'ne Brante	ijd.	Rad'o Jurdan	ijs.
Adam Pillo.....	xxd.	Thm' le Talliour	iijd.
Joh'ne Mast	xviijd.	Beatri Notyng	xijd.
Hug' Kep'	ijs.	Joh'ne Stroupe	vs.
Rich'o Cordyngg.....	ijs. ijd.	Thm' Dockyngg	viijd.
Joh'ne Fabro	vjd.	Will'o Pestel	ijs. vjd.
Joh'ne Bricke	xijd.	Jo'ne Fabr'	xijd.
Rad'o Bricke	xd.	Joh'ne Briant	iijs. vjd.
Alano de Methelwolde	xijd.	Ad' Pillo	ijs. vjd.
Helena Brante	xijd.	Joh'ne Mast	ijs. vjd.
Galfred Bricke	xiiijd.	Hugone Kep'	vjd.
Will'ms atte Hegh	iijd.	Rich'o Cordyng	iijs. ijd.
Will'ms Cordyng	ijs. ijd.	Joh'ne Brucke.....	ijd.
Samuele filio Richi	ijs.	Rad'o Brucke	xxjd.
Rich'o Bauchoun	vijd.	Will'o Smyth	xijd.

VILLATA DE TRYMINGHAM—*continued*.

Gewas filio Will'i	.....ijs. ij <i>d</i> .	Will'o fil' Alani	.....js. iij <i>d</i> .
Nich'o Pakeman	.....xvii <i>d</i> .	Nich'o Packeman	.....ijs. iij <i>d</i> .
Will'ms fil' Alani	.....xv <i>d</i> .	Nich'o Rop'e	.....iijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Nich'e le Rope	.....ij <i>d</i> .	Joh'ne Champelioun	.....xvii <i>d</i> .
Rad'o Jordan	.....xiii <i>d</i> .	Simone Cunteman	.....iijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Thoma Palet	.....xij <i>d</i> .	Mabill' Ributes (?)	.....xvii <i>d</i> .
Thoma de Deycyng	.....xij <i>d</i> .	Gervasio fil' Will'i	.....ijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Will'mo Pestel	.....xvii <i>d</i> .	Isabell Walkener (?)	.....iij <i>d</i> .
Will'ms Culiour	.....vii <i>d</i> .	Samuell fil' Richi	.....iijs. vj <i>d</i> .
Will'mo Pollard	.....xij <i>d</i> .	Will'o Cordyng	.....vj <i>d</i> .
D. Beatr' Notyngg	.....xij <i>d</i> .	D. Galfrid' Bricke	.....ij <i>d</i> .
Tax' { Thoma Capoun	.....xv <i>d</i> .	Will'o atte Heg	.....ij <i>d</i> .
{ Simone Cunteman	.....xij <i>d</i> .	Gervasio fil' Rich'i	.....iijs.
Sma. pb	.....xls. iij <i>d</i> .	Thom' (?) Cap' (?)	.....xvii <i>d</i> .
		Clement ard	.....xvii <i>d</i> .
		Sma.	.....iiij <i>li</i> . xvij <i>d</i> .

The Subsidy Rolls for 18th Edward III. and 8th Edward IV. give the following totals of money paid by the villages in the Soke:—

	£	s.	d.
Gimmingham	...	4	2 0
Sidestrand	...	4	0 0
Mundesley	...	2	15 0
North Repps	...	7	4 2
Knapton	...	7	10 5
Trunch	...	4	10 0
South Repps	...	6	13 4
Trimingham	...	4	4 0

CHAPTER V.

GIMINGHAM - LANCASTER.

Onwards from the time of its acquisition by the House of Lancaster, the Soke of Gimingham is described by a new title—"the Manor and Soke of Gimingham-Lancaster," a name which it has retained to the present day.

It will be remembered that the Earl Warenne's lands had passed on his death to Henry, Duke of Lancaster,¹ who in his turn died without heirs male, his property passing to his daughter Maud, wife of William, Duke of Zealand and Bavaria (son of the Emperor Lewis) and Blanch, wife of the famous John of Gaunt, created Duke of Lancaster. Gimingham had fallen to the share of Maud, but as she only survived her father for a few years, her sister Blanch became the sole heiress of all the estates. From the *Inquisition Post Mortem* taken on the 10th May, 36 Edward III. we learn "that Maud, who was wife of William Duke of Bavaria, held in her demesne as of fee on the day she died the Manor of Gymyngham with its appendants . . . of the King in chief in free socage, but by what service they [the Jury] are ignorant, and it is worth yearly with the 'Sok' in all issues £100. Blanch, sister of Maud and wife of John, Duke of Lancaster, is sister and next heir of the said Maud and is aged 20 and more"² [her age is given variously in other Inquisitions on Maud's death as 16, 21 and 22!]

Thus in right of his wife, John of Gaunt became lord of Gimingham, and amongst the pages of his Register, 1372-1376, we find many allusions to the manor. It was but one of many estates, and the Duke cannot have visited it very frequently, although we read of preparations for what was perhaps an annual visit in the Ministers' Accounts for 1390.

The manors of the Duke of Lancaster were administered by a receiver, a steward and a feoder (or "warden of the franchises") "for each county or group of counties," Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire forming one such group. Above these officials were

1. Le Neve quotes *Mich. Fines*, 28 Edw. III., *Turri London'*, as follows: "Henry Dux Lancaster, consang et haeres Thomae nuper Comitis Lancast' ten' inter alia manerium de Gymyngham de Rege in Capite in libero soccagio per servitium unius Campnollae & advocatio Ecclesiae de Gymyng-ham." *N. Erp.*, p. 64.

2. *Inquisition Post Mortem*, 36 Edw. III., pt. 1, No. 37.

the Chief Stewards, three in number, with jurisdiction "North of Trent," "South of Trent" and in the "northern counties, and there were also auditors to check the accounts."³

Like most non-resident landlords John of Gaunt seems to have regarded his manors chiefly as a source of revenue, and his Register contains particulars of various pensions granted to his supporters out of the issues of Gimmingham.

In 1372-3 a certain Edward Gerberge and Alyne his wife are rewarded for their services by annuities, Alyne Gerberge receiving Cs. out of the issues of the manor of Gymyngham, in lieu of a pension from the issues of St. Botolph (Boston), to be paid during her lifetime at Michaelmas and Easter "pour le penible diligence et bone service que nostre bien amee damoiseil Alyne la femme Edward Gerberge avoit fait a nostre tres chere fillie Philippe puis la trespasement de nostre tres ame compaigne nadgaires duchesse de Lancastre, que Dieux assouilli."⁴ The following year Edward Gerberge entered into an agreement to serve John of Gaunt for life and he too received an annual grant of 20 marks from the Manor of Gimmingham.

1373, March 18. Indenture between John of Gaunt and Edward Gerberge, the latter to serve him in peace and war for the term of his life, our lord to allow him equally in times of peace and of war 20 marks of "la monoie d'Engleterre" from the issues of the Manor of Gymyngham, to be paid by the receiver there in equal portions at Easter and Michaelmas. Edward Gerberge to serve our lord wherever he is required at the wages which the other esquires take, and "commencera son an de guerre le jour q'il se remuera de son houstel envers nostre dit seigneur," summoned by letters, and thenceforward he will take wages "en venant et retournant par resonables journez, en manere come autres esquiers de sa con-dicion prendront;" to be equipped with men, horses and harness as reason demands, and in right of horses taken or lost in the service of our lord, and also in right of prisoners or other profits of war made by him or his men, our lord will treat him as he will treat others of his position.⁵

On 27 April, 1372, a letter is addressed "to our dear and well-beloved clerk Sir William Bughbrugg our receiver . . . to pay out of the issues of your receipt 42 pounds sterling to Robert de Wal-

3. See S. Armitage Smith, *John of Gaunt*, pp. 221-223.

4. *John of Gaunt's Register*, 1372-1376, No. 473 (edited S. Armitage Smith). The Duke's first wife, the Duchess Blanch, daughter of Henry Duke of Lancaster, had died of plague in 1359. His eldest daughter, Philippa, married in 1387 Joao I., King of Portugal, and died in 1415.

5. *Ibid.*, No. 843.

syngham, which we owe him for four horses; and also pay to our dear beloved in God (nostre cher en Dieu) the parson of Gymyngham 13 pounds 6 shillings and 8 pence for one horse."⁶ On 13 July, 1374, he directs "Edmond Gurney and the parkers of our park at Gymyngham and our wood of Southewood to send to our well beloved clerk Sir Thomas de Neuton, our auditor, three good oaks suitable for timber from our wood of Southewood, and one fat buck ["un deyme de grece"] in our park of Gymyngham."⁷ A year later he grants his confessor a pension of £10 out of the issues of the manor.

"1375, Jan. 12. Johan, etc., a touz ceux etc. Faisons savoir que nous, pur le grant affection que nous avons a nostre cher en Dieu frere Wauter Disse nostre Confessour, et en oeuvre de charite avons grantez au dit frere Wauter dys lyvres d'esterlinges par an apprendre des issues de nostre manoir de Gymyngham en le Counte de Norfolk par les mains de nostre receyvour illoeques q'on est ou qui pur le temps serra as termes de Pasques et de Saint Michel par ovelles porcions, pur le temps q'il ensi serra nostre Confessour. En tesmoignance etc. Donnee etc. a Hertford le xij jour de Janver l'au xlvijj.

Item un garrant al receyvour de Gymyngham qi pur le temps serra, pur delivrer al dit frere Wauter les X.li. avant ditz as termes suisditz solonc le purport de les lettres patentes suisditz de meismes les fourmes et date."⁸

In the pages of the Register are recorded not only money grants but also grants of pardon to malefactors. For instance on 3 December, 1371, we get a pardon, "de nostre grace especiale et pour un certain fin quelle Johan de Feryby a nous ad fait," of all personal actions, fines, amercements pending in our Court of Gymyngham, "et queconque trespas a nous faite du comencement du monde tanque le jour de la faisance de cestes, sibien de ce qu'il est trove caupable devant nostre Seneschall come autre" and he is not to be interfered with by any of our Ministers for the aforesaid causes.⁹

Much of the food stuff required for John of Gaunt's large household came from his numerous manors, and those of his possessions which were situated on the coast had to find him in fish. On 6 August, 1372, Thomas Wombe, the receiver, is directed to pay Adam Geese "C marcz d'esterlings" for "vij pessons [poissons] saliz & viij lastes de harang sore pour les depenses de nostre houstel," and to see that there is no default. And [to] provide that the

6. *Ibid.*, No. 944.

7. *Ibid.*, No. 1427, and *D. of L. Register XII.*

8. *Ibid.*, Nos. 686 and 687.

9. *Ibid.*, No. 751.

purveyance of fish and herrings shall be made in the best possible manner for our profit, honour and advantage."¹⁰

We hear of Adam Geese again on several other occasions and he seems to have been a minor official of Gimingham.

For instance on 16 November, 1374. "To Esmon Gournay and Esmon de Clypesby our Seneschalls of Grymyngham [sic], and to Thomas Wombe our receiver in Norfolk . . . We wish and command that you make to appear before our Council at London Adam Gees and the vij prisoners in his charge, and that they come without delay. And besides that you take into our hands all the lands and tenements which the said Adam has purchased as well in Yermouth as in Hanworth and elsewhere, so that we shall be responsible for the issues coming therefrom until you have further orders from us."¹¹

Undoubtedly John of Gaunt was peculiarly obnoxious to the peasants at the time of the 1381 revolt, and even before this outburst there was evidently no love lost between him and his Gimingham tenants, for on the very eve of the Rising, on 6 May, 1381, we find him issuing a warrant (under his title of King of Castile) to his ministers in Norfolk "to command his tenants of Gymyngham to bring their disputes to be determined in [his] Courts there, and not in the spiritual courts."¹² I take this to mean that out of dislike to their lord they were withdrawing their suits from his Courts in favour of the Spiritual Courts, which seems to show that the Commons hated the Duke of Lancaster even more than they did the dignitaries of the Church! We shall see in the next chapter that his Norfolk estates received their full share of the fury of the peasants' attack in the following June.

A few years after the Revolt, in 1391, John of Gaunt founded the free Chantry of Gimingham, of which Adam de Plomer was the first Chaplain.

With the death of John of Gaunt and the accession of his son to the throne of England as Henry IV. in 1399, Gimingham with the other estates became part of the private property of the Sovereigns of England as Dukes of Lancaster.

Amongst several entries in the Duchy Registers relating to bond tenants of Gimingham we come across a warrant dated 12 July, 48 Edward III., instructing Edmond Gournay (the ill-fated steward in Norfolk who suffered so grievously at the hands of the rebels), "to examine into the truth of a petition delivered by Geffrey de Somerton and Constance, his wife, who was late wife of John de

10. *Ibid.*, No. 1028.

11. *Ibid.*, No. 1551.

12. *D. of L. Register XIV.*, fol. 45.

Gees, one of [the duke's] villeins in mouneslei [Mundesley] and to do right therein."¹³ This is particularly interesting in view of the fact that the "unfriendly hand" who cast a slur on the supposed noble descent of the Pastons claimed that the founder of the family greatness was Clement Paston, a plain husbandman, who married a bondwoman, the sister of *Geoffrey de Somerton* who was also bond. From this extract from the Duchy Register it is clear that Geoffrey de Somerton himself had married the widow of a villein regardant to the Manor of Gimingham, which certainly goes to prove that de Somerton himself was only a humble personage.

In addition to the reference to de Somerton we get a still more interesting entry a few years later. In this case John of Gaunt's grandson, Henry V., on 24 November, 1416, orders his feodary in Norfolk to take into his hands all the goods and chattels of Robert Paston of Salthouse, a bondman regardant to the Manor of Gimingham, lately deceased, and to keep them until further notice. It will be remembered that on the death of a villein his lands, houses, goods and chattels all passed to the lord until the heir reclaimed them by paying heriot, the principle being that "the villein has no property of his own, and consequently he cannot transmit property. Strictly speaking there is no inheritance in villainage."¹⁴ Here we have the case of one of the Pastons, a tenant of Gimingham, dying at Salthouse and yet the lord of Gimingham could claim his goods.¹⁵ In the following February a further warrant is issued to deliver to John Birston and Thomas Hakon of the goods of Robert Paston of Salthouse, a nief (*nativo*) tenant of the Manor of Gymyngham, which goods they have purchased for £10.¹⁶

Other entries relating to bondmen include licences to take Holy Orders. A bondman was not qualified to take Holy Orders without the permit of the lord, which was in effect a deed of enfranchisement. The formula will be found in a later chapter,¹⁷ and we will merely note in passing that on 25 June, 2 Henry V., a warrant was granted to "Thomas Fitzwilliam, messenger, (nief tenant of the Manor of Wodallyng, member and parcel of the Manor of Gymyngham) to take Holy Orders, notwithstanding his niefty."¹⁸ And on 18 November, 4 Henry V., Richard Herman, bondman appendant to the lordship of Gymyngham, obtained a similar manumission to enable him to take Holy Orders.¹⁹

13. *D. of L. Register XII.*, f. 204.

14. Vinogradoff, *Villainage*, p. 159.

15. *D. of L. Register XVII.*, pt. 2, f. 53.

16. *Ibid.*, f. 56.

17. See p. 450.

18. Book XVII., pt. 2, f. 11d.

19. *Ibid.*, pt. 3, f. 67.

The park of Gimingham and its officials are often mentioned in these Registers. On 4 February, 9 Henry IV., Robert Quixley, is appointed to the office of parker and warrener,²⁰ and on 11 April, 12 Henry IV., he has a further grant of a house and seven acres of land in Gimingham, which had come into the king's hands by "the felony of John Hunt."²¹

Quixley was re-appointed warrener by Henry V.²² but he did not hold the office for long, for on Jan. 29th, 4 Henry V., a successor was nominated, named William Custance, who five years later likewise obtained a grant of "the messuage and lands forfeited by the felony of John Hunt of Gymyngham, in consideration of 25 marks paid for the same."²³ He had probably retired from his office before that time for John Stoks had been appointed warrener on April 18th, 7 Henry V.²⁴

On January 4th, 4 Henry V., we read of "the warden of the park of Gymyngham" being ordered "to deliver to Sir John Ruthnall, knight, six does."²⁵

The following is the formula of a grant of the office of parker:—

²⁶26 April, 5 Henry [VI.] [A.D. 1427].

Henry [VI.]²⁷ by the advice of his council of the Duchy of Lancaster, gives and grants to John Plompsted the office of Keeper of the King's Park of Gymyngham, parcel of the said Duchy in the county of Norfolk. To hold the said office to the said John for himself or his sufficient deputy, from Michaelmas last past before the date of these presents during pleasure, with the fee and wages thereto belonging, to be received yearly of the issues and revenues of the lordship of Gymyngham, by the hands of the receivers, bailiffs or other occupiers there for the time being, at Easter and Michaelmas in equal portions.

Dated at London, under the seal of the Duchy.

The Manor of Gimingham continued to be used as a source from which to draw the pensions of the king's friends. The famous Sir

20. *D. of L. Miscellaneous Book XVI.*, f. 120.

21. *Ibid.*, f. 16d. See also the *Ministers' Accounts* for 1414-5.

22. Bk. XVII., pt. 3, fol. 11d.

23. Bk. XVII., fol. 56d.

24. *Ibid.*, fol. 79.

25. *Ibid.*, fol. 71.

26. *Ibid.*, pt. 2, fol. 18.

27. Bk. LXXIII., fol. 106. It seems probable that the "Henry" would be Henry VI., because three folios before is a document dated 2 Edward IV. It is hardly likely that documents of Henry IV. or Henry V. would be so near one of Edward IV. in the same Register.

Thomas Erpingham received a pension from Henry IV. of £20 and 40 marks out of the manor of Gimingham²⁸ and on 2 September, 1 Henry V., he was granted the Hundred of South Erpingham for life and £70 a year out of the issues of the lordship of Gimingham.²⁹ The manor officials appear to have been rather dilatory in the payment of this allowance and on 20 November of the same year the receiver of Gimingham is ordered to pay Sir Thomas Erpingham "the arrears of his two annuities."³⁰ John Reymes, esquire, of Overstrand, also had an annuity of £10 from the manor, granted to him by Henry IV.³¹

It has been seen that the lords of Gimingham enjoyed the franchise of "wreck of sea." In those days the right to wreckage was of considerable value. The Duchy Registers contain many references to wrecks off the coast of North Norfolk. Apparently if the owners of the wreck and its cargo could establish their right to the property it could be reclaimed on the payment of certain salvage and manorial dues. If they were unable to do this it came entirely into the hands of the lord of the manor. The following extracts dealing with wrecks are typical of their kind:—

26 March, 5 Henry V. (A.D. 1417).

Henry [V.] to Henry Notyngnam, bailiff of our fees and liberties, in the county of Norfolk, and to our reeve of Gymyngnam, greeting. We are informed that in our lordship of Gymyngnam were lately cast up three pipes of wine, which you, our said reeve, have seised to our use in the name of wreck; for which William Mariot, of Crowmer, is to appear before our council of our Duchy of Lancaster and there find surety and pledge himself to abide by their decree for the value of the said three pipes of wine, if they should be found to be wreck. And we command you (notwithstanding any other order to the contrary by us or our ministers), that after the receipt of these our letters, you cause to be delivered the said three pipes of wine to our well-beloved Walter Chirtesy, John Femall, Simon Seman, Robert at the Hirne, Ralph Valentyn, John Melborne and John Trewman, or to one of them, or their certain attorney; so that the same Walter, John and others, or any one of them, or their said attorney, shall show before you their mark with which the said pipes are marked.³²

28. *Pat. Roll Cal.* (3 Henry IV., pt. m. 27), 17 Nov., 1401.

29. See *D. of L. Registers XVII.*, fol. 1d.

30. *Ibid.*, pt. 2, f. 4d. There are references to this annuity in some of the Accounts of Henry Notyngnam at Gunton, quoted on p. 169.

31. *Pat. R. Cal.*, 28 Nov., 1401.

32. *Reg. XVII.*, part 2, fol. 44.

28 October, 7 Henry V. (A.D. 1419).

Henry (V.) to William Lexham, keeper of our fees and liberties in the county of Norfolk, greeting. WE are informed that certain goods and merchandise which were in a ship from Danzig, called the "MARYKNYGHTE" (lately lost and broken up by tempest on the coast of Gymmyngham) were cast up in our franchises there, of which goods, etc., eleven pieces of wax (?), three barrels of "wildware," three chests full of divers merchandise and other things, belong to the merchants of the steelyard, and they are to be delivered to them without deduction, taking of them for the salvage of the said goods, and other duties which ought to be paid for those goods and merchandise in like cases.³³

In November of the same year, two other warrants were issued to the same official "to deliver to certain merchants certain goods, cast up as wreck within the manor of Gymmyngham, taking *terrage* and other duties payable for the same."³⁴

In 1415 Henry, Archbishop of Canterbury, Richard Bishop of Norwich and twelve others had a grant of the manor of Gimingham, with much other property in Norfolk,³⁵ but after that date the Soke and Manor continued *in the Crown*, as parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster for more than another two centuries, and Le Neve tells us that "the dominion, soc and manner of Gymingham was percell of the possessions of Elizabeth, Queen Consort of Edward IV., [who presented several rectors to the Soke parishes] and the reversion thereof settled by that King, by fine levied in his 15th year, to severall uses as in Gallow Hundred is mentioned."³⁶ By degrees private owners acquired the land in small lots, whilst the manor house and farm was first leased and then sold, and now at the present day all that remain of the Duchy possessions in the Soke are the advowsons of the Churches of Mundesley, North Repps, South Repps and Trimingham, and the alternate presentation to that of Sidestrand, whilst its jurisdiction is limited to the appointment of a special Coroner of the Duchy of Lancaster.

33. *Reg. XVII.*, part 2, fol. 82d.

34. *Ibid.*, pt. 2, 82d. and 84.

35. *Pat. R. Cal.*, 22 July, 1415.

36. *Fines divers' Com'*, Edw. IV., L. 2, No. 10. *N. Erp.*, p. 66.

CHAPTER VI.

THE RISING OF THE LABOURERS, 1381.

Only once in its long history has the Soke of Gimmingham played a part in politics, and for this reason I feel I may be pardoned for dealing with the event at some length, not only telling how the Peasants' Rising affected the Soke, but also trying to show what were the causes and results of Lyster's attack upon manorial bondage.

A transitional and progressive period is bound to bring popular disturbances in its train. When men are moving forward and bettering their condition they begin to aim at still greater advances in prosperity and comfort, and to attack with violence the social inequalities of their age. On the other hand the utterly degraded and down-trodden serf has no heart and no time to think of a possible amelioration of his lot, and no strength to rise against tyranny. Popular rebellion is generally a sign of awakening consciousness and power.

Towards the middle of the 14th century events took place which considerably altered the position of the labourers and which struck a decisive blow at the very roots of villeinage and manorial administration in general.

The labourers had touched the depth of physical misery in the awful year of the Black Death, but from 1349 onwards their lot began to grow less hard, in spite of the constant attempts of their rulers to crush all progress with cruel and uneconomic legislation. The Black Death was not merely a terrible pestilential epidemic, it was also the virtual death of servitude as a system. Enfranchisement followed slowly enough it is true, but for all that we may trace the birth of free labour from the graves of the thousands of bondmen who perished of plague in 1349.

Up till that time the manorial scheme of demesne land and bondland cultivated by the servile tenants had in general worked well enough, and the manor had been a self-supporting social unit, with a certain amount of exchange in kind but with practically no paid labour.¹ But the enormous mortality of 1349 changed the relations of lord and tenant, and made it impossible to go on upon the

1. There were always a few manor servants, of course, and the shepherd, swineherd, and ploughman were usually paid by the year, and exempted from all bond services.

old lines. When one remembers that in some parts of Norfolk nine-tenths of the population had been swept away, it is not astonishing to find that there were no longer enough bondmen to cultivate the demesne, and that the small percentage who had survived were conscious that their labour was now of real money value. Labour was scarce where before it had been plentiful, and the demand for hired labourers and the rise in wages was rapid.² It was not very likely that bondmen would willingly go on working for their lord for nothing when by escaping to another manor they could get fair wages and freedom into the bargain. Fugitive bondmen became more and more common, and the depleted manors were glad enough to employ their neighbours' villeins and ask no questions. Since the lords had not enough forced labour to cultivate the demesne lands, they were left with two alternatives, either to pay hired labourers to do the work, or else to lease the land to the tenants.³ These arrangements were both steps in the direction of freedom, for the paid labourer was in a more independent position, whilst on the other hand, the leased demesne land was *free land*, which thus passed into the hands of some of the tenants burdened by no servile restrictions. But a still more definite cause of the abolition of villeinage was the increasing revenue which the lords could derive from the sale of charters of manumission, for it was infinitely better for them to sell freedom to their bondmen than that the estate should be denuded of labour through the flight of the villeins. For a time the status of the labourers seemed to be really improving, but before many months had gone by a reactionary government had enacted the notorious Statute of Labourers. It fixed wages at a definite maximum based upon the price of wages in 1346—a violent contrast to modern demands for a minimum wage—and any servant or labourer who demanded or accepted more than the statute amount was liable to very severe penalties. Moreover "fugitive labourers were to be branded in the forehead with a hot iron."

I have come across the case of a certain Thomas atte Welle who suffered outlawry for desertion of service at Trunch in 1369-72. He had left his master William Okey contrary to the ordinance of the council whereby it was enacted that "if any servant of whatsoever state or condition he should be in the service of anyone, should withdraw from his service without reasonable cause or licence, he should be subject to the pain of imprisonment, the aforesaid Thomas

2. As a matter of fact, wages had begun to rise even before the Black Death, see Petit-Dutaillis, p. xxx. of Preface to "*Le Soulèvement des Travailleurs*."

3. In Gimmingham some lands had been leased to tenants at a much earlier date, as has been stated in a previous chapter, but this was probably a rather exceptional case.

being in the service of the same William at Trunch, lately withdrew from the said service before the end of the term between them agreed, and in contempt of the king and to the grave damage of the said William and against the said ordinance." The culprit was summoned by the sheriff at the County Courts at the Octave of St. Martin, and on Monday before the Feast of St. Margaret, in 1369, when he failed to appear, and so on in every subsequent County Court until the one held on Monday the Feast of St. Leonard 1372, when again he did not appear and so was outlawed. "Afterwards on Friday after the same Feast of St. Leonard the said Thomas came before the Lord the King [i.e. to the King's Court] and gave himself up for the reason aforesaid being committed to the prison of the Marshalsea."⁴

We must be careful not to judge the legislators of the 14th century by our modern standards for they were attempting to uphold a communistic principle which we ignore absolutely at the present day, namely, that it is a heinous crime to reap any personal advantage from the necessities of other people. This was the idea underlying the Statute of Labourers.⁵ But whatever the motive of this attempt of parliament to tamper with the fluctuations of the labour market, its results were bad for the bondmen, for not only were their wages lowered but in addition the lords took the opportunity of revoking numbers of their charters of enfranchisement on the false plea that there were legal flaws in the agreements. It was an ill-chosen moment for offering the working people tyranny in lieu of justice, for the common man had discovered something of his individual worth in the French wars, and the strength of the foot soldier and of the bowman had been exhibited successively at Courtrai (1302), Bannockburn (1314), Crécy (1346) and Poitiers (1356). The villeins had tasted freedom, some remained free men, and those still in bondage looked at them with envy, and began to weave plans for obtaining their own freedom by force and as an act of Christian justice and not merely as a deed of seigniorial clemency. The labourer of the second half of the 14th century had begun to think and to rebel against the blind cruelty of his rulers.

"He grieves against God and murmurs against reason
And then curses the King, and all his counsel after,
For making such laws, labourers to grieve."

—(*Piers Plowman*, Book VI.).

4. *Chancery Miscellanea*, Bundle 70, File 7, No. 234.

5. See M. Charles Petit-Dutaillis, p. xxxi. of his introduction to Réville's *Le Soulèvement des Travailleurs en 1381*.

Bad harvests added to the discontent in 1351 and 1369. A spark only was needed to kindle these grievances into flame, and the explosion was finally brought about by the obnoxious and unpopular Poll Tax of 1380. The collection of the tax hurried on the crisis, but the real causes of revolt had had their beginnings in the thirty preceding years, and the Peasants' Rising when it came was no sudden or unconsidered popular upheaval, but a carefully planned campaign to redress evils of long standing.

For weeks and months before the first blow was struck a rumour had been running through the country districts of a "Great Society" which called upon all working people to rise as one man and break off the yoke of bondage.

"John Schep, some time Saint Mary's priest of York, and now of Colchester, greeteth well John Nameless and John the Miller and John Carter, and biddeth them that they beware of guile in borough, and stand together in God's name, and biddeth Piers Plowman go to his work, and chastise well Hob the Robber, and take with you John Trueman and all his fellows and no mo; and look sharp you to one-head (union) and no mo.

John Miller hath gground small, small, small.

The King's son of heaven shall pay for all.

Be ware or ye be wo [worse].

Know your friend from your foe.

Have enough and say "Ho!" [stop],

And do well and better and flee sin,

And seek peace and hold therein.

And so bid John Trueman and all his fellows."⁶

In such strange words did the peasant leaders call their men to arms.

Monsieur Petit-Dutaillis emphasises the fact that the rebellion which ensued was far more widely spread both as to locality and time than has hitherto been generally recognised by historians. The causes too varied in different countries, though at the root of all the disturbances lay a common discontent with their servile status.⁷ In Norfolk the rising was animated by various motives, differing in the Western and Eastern portions of the country. Though primarily an insurrection of the poor against the rich, in Lynn and its neighbourhood another factor was also at work, namely, hatred of

6. "Walsingham," II., 33-4, quoted on p. 203 of *England in the Age of Wycliffe* (G. M. Trevelyan).

7. "La contradiction qui existait entre leur condition légale et le progrès de leur existence matérielle était évidemment pour eux une source d'exaspération quotidienne." Petit-Dutaillis, p. xxxvii.

the Flemish weavers, who had come into England in large numbers under the direct encouragement of Edward III., who wished to improve the quality of the native manufactures. In this, however, he was disappointed, for the foreigners merely banded themselves together into a kind of trades union which kept the secrets of its craft closely to itself! The English weavers not unnaturally were bitterly jealous of these foreigners, and took the opportunity offered by the general rising to pay off old scores and make as clean a sweep as possible of the intruding foreigners. In other parts of Norfolk as well, foreigners seem to have had short shrift at the hands of the peasants, although Lynn was the only place where an organised attack was made upon them. In the other districts of West Norfolk the rebels appear to have been chiefly in search of plunder, with no very definite demands and grievances. In East Norfolk and Norwich on the other hand the rising was distinctly political in character, and its leaders claimed sundry social reforms, the chief of these being the abolition of bondage. In Norfolk we get little or no allusion to the Poll Tax, the cause of the revolt in Kent and Essex. In East Norfolk the rebellion was apparently quite impersonal and was seldom directed against individual landlords, whilst in West Norfolk on the contrary, it seems to have been a real class war, and unpopular persons of the ruling class were the objects of a furious animosity. The objects of their especial hatred were the nobility, the *regular* clergy⁸ and the lawyers, all of whom had been responsible for their subjection. The lesser secular clergy seem, as a rule, to have sided with the peasants, for they too had their grievances against their rich and powerful brethren, and in very many cases the leaders of the mob were priests.

Of all their enemies there was no one more abhorred by the people than John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and titular King of Castile, and his property and his agents everywhere had their full share of the attention of the rebels. For this reason the manor of Gimingham became a point of attack, and probably for the same reason many of the men of the Soke were foremost in joining in the insurrection.

Since we are specially interested in what befell in the neighbourhood of Gimingham we will deal more particularly with the rising in East Norfolk, which was, indeed, its cradle and its grave. The revolt in this district is notable for its cohesion, standing out in contrast to the lawless and undirected outbursts in West Norfolk. This was probably owing to the fact that the East Nor-

8. "L'Eglise (était) hostile en Angleterre, comme en France, à tout mouvement d'affranchissement." *Ibid.*, lii.

folk men possessed a notable leader in the person of Geoffrey Litester, Lytster or Lyster, of Felmingham, a village adjoining North Walsham. He was a dyer by trade, as his name suggests, and in fact is described as a *lestere* in the 1379 Poll Tax.⁹ Although one of the chroniclers speaks of his "mansion" at Felmingham, he does not seem to have been a man of any wealth, and after his execution his goods and chattels were only valued by the escheator at 33s. 9d., or about £30 of modern money. No doubt Lyster and his agents had been thoroughly preparing the men of the neighbouring villages for action when the right time should come—and when it *did* come they flocked to his side, becoming after a few days under his command a formidable organised force quite unlike the unruly mobs of plunderers elsewhere in the county.

The Soke of Gimingham supplied him with one of his chief lieutenants in John de Trunch, besides many of the rank and file. It seems possible that Trunch may have been in Orders, minor or otherwise, for in the Close Roll of 1377 [1 Ric. II., m. 20d.] under date of 30 October, a quit claim is recorded of the manor of Cornerd Hall in Bures, Co. Suffolk, which Robert de Swynburne, Knight, John de Rokewode and *Master John Trunch, clerk*, had of the gift of Thomas de Cornerd, Knight. The peasants' leaders in several cases belonged to the ranks of the lesser clergy, so it is not unlikely that Trunch may have been of the same profession. In any case he was evidently a man of importance amongst the rebels. He was one of the three ambassadors chosen by Lyster to carry the Commons' petition to the King, and his name also figures in the political poem, "On the Slaughter of Archbishop Sudbury":—

"Jak Chep (Schep), Tronche, Jon Wrau, Thom Myllere, Tyler,
Jak Strawe,

Erle of the Plo, Rak to, Deer, et Hob Carter, Rakstrawe."¹⁰

André Réville emphasises again and again the special character of the rising under Lyster. It was directed against privileges and not against persons, above all it attacked the manorial administration, and the victims of the insurgents were Court Rolls and manor houses,

9. In Kent no fewer than five ringleaders of the rebellion were named Tyler, and Dr. Stubbs has pointed out that "the tilers appear to have been a particularly unmanageable body of artizans." Can it be that in North and East Norfolk the *dyers* were an unruly trade? Not only was *Lyster* their leader, but John *Madour*, of South Repps, was also an active participant in the revolt.

In the Patent Rolls for 7 Ric. II., Part II., m. 19, a pardon is granted to John Bozoun, of Fulbeck, at the instance of John of Gaunt, "for robbing John *Madour*, *lytster*, of Nottingham, of two horses value 30s. and 25s. in money, in the field of Syston." Madour was, therefore, evidently the surname of one who was a *dyer* by trade.

10. *Political Poems*, Rolls Series, Vol. I., p. 230.

rather than men. "Cette guerre acharnée au parchemin," as Réville calls it, began on June 17th, 1381, and the very next day the Court Rolls of Gimmingham and Tunstead, both manors of John of Gaunt, were burnt by a certain John Cook, assisted by John Holtman,¹¹ "un des sicaires de Geoffrey Lyster."

But before we go forward we must go back to the events of the days preceding June 17th. The Suffolk rebels, amongst them men of property and standing, under John Wrawe, had taken up arms on June 12th, when the Kentish rising was already in progress. Three days later the fate of the Kentish and Essex men was sealed by the death of Wat Tyler in Clerkenwell Fields. Norfolk had yet to rise. The peasants were ready, they only needed to be summoned to arms. On June 11th, "Stephen Byppes, of Skothowe, John Wattes, of the same, Richard Fylmond, of Buxton, and John Gentelhomme, of the same, assembled and went from vill to vill, against the Crown of the Lord the King, and fled; and Thomas de Suthfolkes, of Swanton Abbots, did the same, on Monday next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle, 4 Richard II."¹² The indictment for treason, from which we learn these facts, goes on to accuse them in particular of making assemblies with other unknown malefactors at Scottow, Worstead and Walsham, Fylmond and Gentelhomme being severally described as *communis levator* and *procurator* "at the time of the rising against the King and his peace and the destruction of his people."¹³ It will be seen that all the villages mentioned are within a short distance of North Walsham and Felmingham. The envoys from East and North Norfolk carried the call to arms into other parts of the country, and the jury for the Hundred of South Greenhow had to complain that "William Bulwere and William Ropere, the younger, of North Erpingham, rode from vill to vill at the instance of Thomas Hulf, of Sporle, on Tuesday next before the feast of Corpus Christi."¹⁴

These agents of revolt soon set the countryside on fire and by June 17th the Commons had assembled in large numbers on Mousehold Heath, near Norwich, the first rallying point of the peasants of 1381, as it was of their descendants under Ket in 1549. On Mousehold Lyster was supported by John de Trunch, and Sir Roger Bacon Kt. of Baconsthorpe. The Norwich citizens were terrified

11. *Assize Rolls*, N. 2, 29, 6, m. 1, part 1 and m. 53, m. 1, part 4d., m. 32, part 1, (from Réville).

12. King's Bench, *Ancient Indictments*, Class IX., No. 166 (formerly 128), m. 91.

13. King's Bench, *Ancient Indictments*, Class IX., No. 166 (formerly 128), m. 91, last membrane but one.

14. *Ibid.*

at the approach of the rebels, and they appear to have sent a certain Sir Robert Salle to parley with their leaders. The knight, though not a gentleman born, was something of a hero to the men of his time and was described by Froissart as follows:—"Il avoit la grace, le fait et le renommée de estre sages et vaillans homs as armes, et l'avoit fait pour sa vaillance li rois Edouwars Chevalier, et estoit de membres li mieux tournés et li plus fors homs de toute Engleterre."¹⁵ This gallant knight fell foul of the rebels, but what exactly occurred is doubtful, anyhow he was attacked and killed by Henry Ryse of Dilham and others, amongst whom were two men of Gimmingham Soke, Robert Jowbel of South Repps, and William Brom, of Knapton.¹⁶

In the *Chronicon Angliae* there is an account of Salle's death and of Lyster's camp upon Mousehold. It is written from an acutely anti-popular standpoint and is as follows:—

"Sir Robert [de Salle] remained not long alive in their company, for that he knew not to dissemble as the others, [i.e. certain captive knights] but began publicly to condemn their deeds and to be disgusted thereat, wherefore he was struck on the head by a countryman, a bondman of his own, and died: a soldier who, if it had come to open fighting between them, in his sole person would have put to flight a thousand of them. But the rest, [Sir Thomas de Morley, Sir John Brewes and Sir Stephen de Hales] seeing that they must either dissemble or die a dishonourable death and warned by the fate of the aforesaid knight and their own danger, proclaimed their own pleasure in all that pleased the mob, and their dislike of all that displeased them. Wherefore it befell that they were taken into favour by the said mob-leader, John Lytstere, who called himself 'King of the Commons,' and he granted them for their services the office of tasters of the King's food and drink, and made them to wait upon him with bent knee as he sat at meat. But Stephen de Hales, for that he was an honourable knight, he chose above all to carve at his table and taste the food which was to be set before him, and to the rest also he designed each his office."¹⁷

15. Froissart, X., 115.

16. *Anc. Indictments*, No. 166, m. 91. "Robert Jowbel, of Southrepes, and William Brom, of Knapton, assembled and slew Sir Robert de Salle, chivalier, at Maudelin and fled." Powell describes the scene of the murder as "close by the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen—a building which stood about one mile to the north-east of the Magdalen gates of the city."—*East Anglia Rising*, p. 29.

17. Translated from the Latin of the *Chronicon Angliae*, by S. J. Paget.

It is to be feared that Norwich suffered a good deal at the hands of the rebels, and subsequent presentments show that a justice of the peace, Reginald de Eccles, was murdered by William de Belhous, of North Walsham, and others,¹⁸ the principal leaders and "assemblers of the people" on this occasion being "Sir Roger Bacoun, Chevalier, Richard Filmond, of Buxton, and John Gentilombe, of the same, John Wattes, Geoffrey Lystere, Thomas Skeet, William Kybyte ("de Wirsted"), John de Trunche and Thomas Sampson, (who) together with other malefactors, slew Reginald de Ecclys and beheaded him, and broke the house of the same Reginald and took away his goods to the value of one hundred marks, also the house of Henry Lomynor [a former representative of Norwich in parliament], and there they broke and threw down and carried away goods to the value of one thousand marks, and also the house of Sir Robert Salle, knight, they broke and threw down, and carried away his goods to the value of two hundred pounds."¹⁹

Meanwhile in the Soke of Gimingham and its vicinity bands of armed countrymen were busily engaged in pillaging John of Gaunt's property at Gimingham and destroying the Court Rolls of the neighbouring manors. The presentment is that "John Taylour, of North Wodebernyngham, Robert Jowbel, of Suthreppes, and John Herman, of Thweyt, together with many others, arrested John de Basyngham and Thomas Colman at Overstrand, and by force and arms led them, against their will, to the manors of Hanesworth (Hanworth), Felbrygg, Bernyngham, Basyngham and divers other places, to burn the rolls of the said Courts; at which time the said John de Basyngham and Thomas Colman despaired of their lives, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Botolph," (June 19th). Also they present that "John Madour, of Suthreppes, was a coadjutor and counsellor of Geoffrey Lyster and his associates, and that the same John and Richard Bermud, of Bradfield, likewise with many others (unknown) broke the chamber (*camera*) of the Duke of Lancaster [i.e., the manor house at Gimingham] and carried away the goods of the same manor and fled, on the day and year above-said."²⁰

18. *Ancient Indictments*. No. 166, m. 91.

19. *Ibid.*, last m. but one. The unfortunate Reginald de Eccles and Henry Lomynour (or Lymenour) were evidently adherents of the unpopular Lancastrian party, for it is significant to find them in June of the previous year joining with John of Gaunt's nominee, Adam Pope, rector of South Repps, and others, in making a grant to the Carmelite Prior at Norwich, of a messuage and garden held in burgage, adjoining the dwelling of the Carmelites. (Patent Roll, 3 Rich. II., part 3, m. 11.)

20. *Ancient Indictments*, No. 166, m. 91.

In the following May an enquiry was made as to the damage done to the manors of the Duke of Lancaster, and probably some of the enormities therein described were committed at Gimingham on June 19th, 1381. Gimingham comes first in the list of pillaged manors, so it was possibly the one which suffered most damage at the hands of the peasants. One of the King's Commissioners was John Plays, of the Knapton family, then enfeoffed, with Sir Roger de Boys, of the royal castle of Mettingham in Suffolk, which itself had been broken into by John Wrawe's band of Suffolk rebels on June 18th. All the title deeds and Court Rolls were destroyed, and £40 of money and £20 worth of goods were carried off by the peasants.

The Commission with regard to the Duke of Lancaster's manors is as follows:—

²¹₂₂ May, 5 Richard II. (A.D. 1382).

THE KING to his beloved and faithful William de Skipwyth, Thomas Hungerford, Robert Howard, Roger de Walis-ham, Roger de Boys, and John Plays GREETING: BY certain complaints of our most dear uncle John, King of Castille and Leon, Duke of Lancaster, we have heard that Nicholas Flemmyng, William Coke of Wylton, John Deye of Hokewold, Alexander Kyngpere, John Monke, Nicholas Gege, Thomas Writh, Robert Aleyn, Alexander Archer, John Wodfrey, Thomas Gybon the younger, John Gates, John Philippes, John Meyr, Gilbert Warner of Ingham, Nicholas Barkere, Nicholas Beaufitz, Henry Soutere, and John Avelyn, and certain other malefactors and breakers of our peace, have entered the free warren of the same King (of Castille) at Gymyngham, Methe-wold, Tonstede and Crabbegate, with force and arms, and have broken his closes, houses and park there, and have hunted in the same warren and park, without licence or leave, and have dug in his soil there, and have thrown down the earth thereof, and have carried away the timber from the houses aforesaid, and also other his goods and chattels found there, to the value of two thousand pounds, and have also taken hares, rabbits, pheasants and partridges, from the warren afore-said, and wild creatures from the park aforesaid, and have taken and lead away twenty (of) his horses, twenty oxen, fifty cows, and one thousand sheep, found there to the value of two hundred marks, and have burnt his charters, deeds, rolls and other muniments found there, and have made assaults upon his men and servants there, and have beaten, wounded

and ill-treated them; by all which the same King (of Castile) has lost the service of the same men and servants for a long time, and suffered other grievances²² to the great loss of the same King, and against our peace. And because we are unwilling to leave unpunished that trespass, if it should have been perpetrated, we have assigned you five, four, three or two of you, of whom you the aforesaid William are to be one, our justices to enquire, by the oaths of good and lawful men of the county of Norfolk, by whom the truth of the matter may be the better known, of the names of the aforesaid malefactors, who have perpetrated the aforesaid trespass with the aforesaid Nicholas, etc.; and the truth more fully concerning that trespass, and to hear and determine the same trespass according to the law and custom of our kingdom of England. AND therefore we command you that at a certain (day) etc. IN WITNESS whereof etc. WITNESS the King at Westminster the 22nd day of May.

On the other side of the county John of Gaunt's steward of the Duchy of Lancaster in Norfolk and Suffolk, Edmond Gurney, was having a very poor time of it. His official position made him specially obnoxious to the Commons. On the same day that the peasants raided the Manor of Gimingham in North Norfolk, their fellows in West Norfolk, under Walter Tyler (a namesake of the Kentish leader) were engaged in pursuing the unfortunate Gurney and John de Holkham, an equally unpopular justice and lawyer, to the very verge of the sea, upon which they managed to escape in a small boat from Holme-next-the-sea. A reward of a pound apiece was on the heads of the fugitives and the mob was furious at their escape and vented its wrath by breaking into Gurney's house at West Lexham and sacking it very thoroughly.

At this moment Geoffrey Lyster was at the height of his power. Norwich had fallen into his hands on June 17th, Yarmouth on the 18th. On the march from the one city to the other some of the rebels had stopped at Carrow, and succeeded in carrying off the charters and muniments of the prioress,²³ which were burned in Norwich by Lyster and Trunch. As a rule the fury of the mob was chiefly visited on Court Rolls and charters, but on June 19th they turned their attention to three unfortunate Flemings, who were murdered *per preceptum Galfridi Lystere*.²³ This seems to have been the only attack made upon foreigners in the northern or eastern part

22. "Enormia."

23. *Ancient Indictments*, 166, m. 110. He is called *Geoffrey Lystere de Felmyngham*.

of the county. Apart from a few brutal actions of this kind, Lyster seems to have been wonderfully humane in dealing with his enemies. At times he did not stop at pillage and murder, but they were not the sole objects of his campaign as they were of the peasant bands in other parts of the country, for he had a real crusade to lead against the privileges of lords and boroughs, and as Réville wrote "il espérait, sur les ruines de la Société vaincue, édifier un régime nouveau, il tenta de l'organiser, il crut à son oeuvre et la défendit avec l'acharnement d'un homme désespéré, décidé à périr ou à vaincre."²⁴ Primarily political, Lyster's rebellion attacked privileges, set free prisoners and attempted to inaugurate a new judicial order in which serfdom held no place, but as time went on some of his followers were not above feathering their own nests. Yarmouth was a privileged borough with market rights over a seven miles radius, a heavy burden to the neighbouring villages. The Commons were fighting for the abolition of these so-called *liberties* and for freedom in trade and labour. At Yarmouth they vented their resentment upon any official personage or document that they could lay hands on. The two collectors of customs, Hugh Fastolf and William Ellys (Member for Yarmouth in 1377), not only suffered the loss of all their official rolls and registers but in addition were robbed respectively of £200 and £400.²⁵ Meanwhile Sir Roger Bacon went off on his own account to Winterton where he frightened a certain John Curteys into giving him ten marks, and later on at Yarmouth he seized upon William Clere and forcibly brought him to Caistor, where he extorted from him a grant of the Manor of Antingham on pain of mutilation and death. The rebel knight evidently feared that this unlawful acquisition of a manor might be the source of future trouble, so three days later he sold it to a certain William de Wychyngham.²⁶ Another band of rebels under Richard Bray fell in with the wife of the unfortunate Clere, whom they imprisoned at Ormesby, finally putting her to a ransom of twenty-one shillings.

From Yarmouth Lyster and his host proceeded to his own dis-

24. Réville, *Le Soulèvement des Travailleurs*, p. 102.

25. *Assize Rolls*, N. 2, 29, 6, m. 1, part 3 and m. 40. *Ancient Indictments*, 166, last m. but one.

26. Réville, pp. 111, 112, from *Assize Rolls*, N. 2, 29, 6, m. 1, pt. 2 and m. 52. I am puzzled as to the real facts of this case, for I can find no evidence to prove that William Clere ever held the manor of Antingham, but on the other hand it appears rather that William de Wychyngham acquired the manor on his marriage with Margaret, called by Norris the heiress of the de Antinghams. In any case, the manor was subsequently known as Antingham-Wychyngham. Of course, it is possible that de Wychyngham married his de Antingham heiress after the grant of the manor had been made to him by Sir Roger Bacon.

trict of Felmingham, and on June 21st he held a Court of justice at Thorpe Market, at which he gave permission to some of his followers to go to Bingham and destroy the Abbey Court Rolls.

It was about this time, on either 20th or 21st, that he decided to send an embassy to London to petition the King to redress the wrongs of the bondmen and to grant them full freedom. The messengers chosen were Trunch, Skeet or Sceth, and Kybett or Cubitt, accompanied by two hostage knights, Sir Thomas Morley and Sir John Brewes, and bearing with them a considerable gift of money for the King. They did not get very far on their journey, for on June 22nd they met the redoubtable Henry le Despencer, Bishop of Norwich, with an armed force, at Temple Bridge, near Icklingham, in Suffolk. This famous fighting prelate was at one of his manors near Stamford when news reached him of the uproar in his diocese. Accompanied by a small force of knights and men-at-arms, he was hastening back to Norfolk when he fell in with the three rebel envoys at Icklingham. They were promptly arrested and taken in his train to Wymondham, where they were executed, predecessors upon the scaffold of the Kets of Wymondham, leaders of the Rising of 1549.

The bishop next turned his attention to the extermination of the insurgents in the N.E. of the county. The story of his campaign is graphically told in the "*Liber de Illustribus Henricis*," by Capgrave, a monk of Lynn, and in the "*Chronicon Angliae*," (sometimes erroneously called Thomas of Walsingham's Chronicle.) Both these accounts are written by monks and are therefore hostile to the peasants. They differ materially in their description of what occurred when the bishop encountered Lyster and his army at North Walsham, and it is best to read the two accounts side by side. I therefore give them verbatim.²⁷ It will be noticed that Capgrave makes special mention of Lyster being in the neighbourhood of Walsham market and *Gimmingham*.

"In an uproar of the people, when throughout England ribalds were madly raging, he (Henry le Dispenser) did not limit himself to any half measures. Whilst lords, and knights, and others of the nobility were hiding themselves for fear, he went forth openly. For he had heard, whilst he was with the King in the neighbourhood of London,²⁸ that certain men of the basest condition in his flock had risen up in rebellion, and had assumed to themselves titles of authority; and that, moreover, they were riding about with

27. Capgrave's account is from Hingeston's translation, and the *Chronicon Angliae*, has been translated by S. J. Paget.

28. The *Chronicon Angliae* makes the bishop hear of the news at his manor near Stamford.

a great mob, making search for men of station, that they might be put to death. Of whom the principal were these—Jack Litster, and three others, called Sceth, Trunch and Cubith. The pious pastor, therefore, taking pity on his flock, torn as it was by the gnawings of so many wolves, left London, and came, as he was bound, to the succour of his people.

And, first, finding certain of this wicked mob at Cambridge, he slew some, imprisoned others, and others he sent back to their homes, after taking their oath that thenceforth they would never turn out for like purposes. Afterwards when he came to Icklingham, at a spot where a mill-house somewhat narrowed the roadway, between Cambridge and Thetford, he met Lord Thomas de Morley and another, a Knight, named Brewes. And they here delivered up to him the three aforesaid malefactors, Sceth, Trunch and Cubith. For they themselves did not dare to put them to death without special command from the King. But this most excellent man, having the zeal of Phineas in his breast, and taking into consideration the peril of the people, led them with him to Wymondham, where after they had been confessed he caused them to be beheaded. In that same place many malefactors remained, who, terrified by dread of death, did not dare to proceed further in their insurrection.

The good pastor, coming to the principal city of his diocese, namely, to Norwich,²⁹ saw and bewailed the destruction of houses and places made by the aforesaid furious people while they were thus excited. For in his absence, one of their principal leaders, named Jack Litster, and a large multitude associated with him, entered the city against the will of the citizens, and committed many horrid deeds, especially in the destruction of houses and places in which certain nobles lived who were friends of the law or of the King.

In a similar manner, with a mob aiding him, a ribald fellow from Kent, named Wat Tyler, acted in the City of London.

But this Henry, a good bishop and pastor, who seeing the wolf, fled not, but exposed himself to danger, enquired of the citizens where the head of all the evil and of all this infamy might be found. And they said that he was wandering about the neighbourhood of Walsham-market and of Gimingham, where he had the largest number of rustics and ribald fellows. Thereupon the bishop commanded his domestics to transfer themselves to those parts, and with them he himself was always foremost. For the

29. There is no mention of his going to Norwich in the C.A. He is made to go straight from Icklingham to North Walsham, but he probably passed through Norwich.

bishop had said to those with him: "It is better that one evil and wicked man should die, than that the whole people perish, for they, taking license from him, commit assaults and robberies, killing those who are unconscious of crime."

And saying this he came to the town of Felmingham,³⁰ where the said ringleader had a mansion. And those who resided there, being questioned where he was, said that on the previous day he was at Thorp-market, where he had caused it to be publicly proclaimed that all who desired the welfare of the Kingdom and of the community should follow him to Walsham; where he intended, as he said, to defend the people against the tyranny of the approaching bishop by military force. And on this, all the able-bodied of the adjacent villages had followed him, and were there. To his informant the Bishop said: "Blessed be thou, my son, since thou hast not mingled with wicked men, nor with a mischievous people."

And thus hastening on to Walsham, he found the openings of the roads blocked with timbers, and towers, and other impediments. But by the good management³¹ of the bishop, and of other men who had assembled there, the whole people surrendered, rejoicing that they might withdraw in peace. Jack Litster himself, leaping over a wall, hid himself in a corn-field. And one of the people, perceiving this, announced it to the bishop. The traitor was sought and found; he was captured and beheaded; and, divided into four parts, he was sent through the country to Norwich, Yarmouth, and Lynn, and to the site of his mansion; that rebels and insurgents against the peace might learn by what end they will finish their career.

These are the acts of this venerable bishop."

The "Chronicon Angliae" describes the events rather differently.

"And when the Commons had now begun to tire, and when many days had passed by they decided to send two of the Knights, (whom they had forced into joining them), Sir William Morley and Sir John Brewes, with three of their own number in whom they trusted, to the King at London, or wheresoever else he might be found, to ask for a Charter of liberty and amnesty; and that they might gain a charter peculiar to themselves and better than those granted or yet to be granted to other counties, they gave into the hands of their emissaries a large sum of money which they had taken from

30. No mention in C.A. of going to Felmingham.

31. C. A. describes a thrilling and hotly-contested battle, in which the bishop performed prodigies of valour.

the citizens of Norwich under the pretence of keeping the city safe from murder, incendiarism and rapine, in order that they might win by money peace and liberty which of their own deserts they could not hope to possess. The Knights therefore, with their comrades from the rebels' court, hastened to perform the duty laid upon them; and when they reached the village of Ighingham, which lies not far from the town of Newmarket, the bishop of Norwich, my lord Henry le Spencer, came unexpectedly upon them, a man well skilled in warlike exercises, a born warrior. He had heard news of the rising in Norfolk while he was staying near Staunforde; wherefore he purposed to come down upon them, to see whether they had fulfilled their words by action. He had then in his company no more than eight lances and a very small number of bowmen. When he saw the Knights with their companions of the commonalty he bade the Knights by virtue of his authority tell him if there were present with them some of the traitors. But the Knights, now steeped in ignoble fear, hesitated to give answer, thinking that the bishop, in that he was a young man and brave, had uttered these words thoughtlessly and would have none to help him should they hand over the rebels. But the bishop seeing and understanding their position encouraged them to act boldly and give up any rebels there were among them. Then the Knights, cleansed as it were of their cowardice and clad once more in valour, answered that two of the leading spirits of the rising were there present while a third had gone away to buy them food; they even disclosed to him the purpose of their journey in full. The bishop therefore straightway gave order that the two should be beheaded and himself undertook to find the third; they were his sheep, he said, both before and after their rebellion against the King, and so must be condemned to death by his episcopal decree. So they stuck up their heads at Newmarket³² and then the bishop and the Knights made all speed across Norfolk to North Walsham, the place in which the Commons had decided to await the King's answer and the return of their comrades. Moreover, during his journey across the county, the bishop's following ever increased by reason of the fact that many Knights and gentlemen who for fear of the Commons had lain hid, now seeing that the bishop had taken up arms and put on a metal helmet and a stout breastplate, which no arrow could pierce, and taken in his hand a material sword of two edges, joined themselves unto him.

The bishop therefore when he came to the aforesaid place was accompanied by a large body of men; there he found the Com-

32. In reality they were executed at Wymondham.

mons drawn up like an army: they had dug a trench round the place in which they were assembled, and above the ditch they had fixed tables, windows and doors together with stakes for their defence. He saw that they had placed in their rear their carriages and waggons as if they had no idea of flight. There was no delay: the soldier-bishop, determining to fight a pitched battle and roused to anger by the boldness of the rebels, ordered the trumpets and bugles to sound; he himself seized a lance in his hand and spurred on his horse and rushed upon them with such spirit and bravery that he gained the fosse swifter than the arrows of his men; and there was no need for the bowmen to shoot for already a hand-to-hand battle was raging. The warrior-bishop stood his ground like a wild boar gnashing its teeth, sparing neither himself nor his foes: where he saw the danger was greatest there he directed his attack and stabbing some, unhorsing others, hacking and hewing, he ceased not to do them grave despite, until all the company that followed him had gained the fosse and was ready for the conflict. Wherefore the bishop's party fought keenly, and not less keenly the Commons, until, as often occurs, the pricking of conscience struck terror into the supporters of evil cause and banished from their minds their courage and the willingness to die. For there is nothing worse than fighting against the pricks of conscience which are always the cause of fear and confusion, and never result in victory. Wherefore the Commons fled in fear and as no way remained open to them beyond the carriages and waggons, which as we stated above were placed in the rear, they made their way with difficulty through the wood. But the bishop, playing everywhere the part of a wise general withstood these attempts and as they sought to fly hindered them and cut them down; finally having captured the leaders of the mob, including their King, John Lytstere, and having slaughtered as many of the Commons as he would, and kept the rest alive, he was enabled to claim a complete victory.

Wherefore the bishop condemned the said John, the idol of the people of Norfolk, to be dragged to the gallows and there hung and afterwards to be beheaded. He heard his confession and absolved him by virtue of his office and himself accompanied him to the gallows, manifesting in his treatment of him, a vanquished enemy, all mercy and piety; for he held up his head lest it should be bruised on the ground as he was dragged to execution. This done the bishop would not rest until all the malefactors scattered throughout the county had been sought out and punished. Thus peace was established in Norfolk and an inestimable benefit done to the whole Kingdom by the laudable uprightness and praiseworthy valour of this warrior bishop."

It is hard to determine what really happened at North Walsham. Mr. Powell follows Capgrave in believing that no fight took place, arguing that the Norfolk monk would be more likely to know the true history of events. On the other hand M. André Réville goes far to prove that there really was a battle at North Walsham. There is much evidence to support this theory, for instance, in the list of traitors' goods in the Escheators Rolls, many of the rebels are described as having been *killed*, and not *executed*, several of these being designated as "of North Walsham."³³ Local tradition reinforces documentary evidence and Mr. Walter Rye was told by a countryman on the site of the supposed battle "They dew say a 'mazin lot of men are buried in that pightle."³⁴ Moreover, an ancient stone cross on the road from North Walsham to Westwick and Norwich commemorates the defeat of the rebel peasants, although it has been removed from its original position, which was about a quarter of a mile to the west, nearer to Felmingham and North Walsham Heath, where the fight probably took place.

The Assize Rolls give us a few more details of the last days of Lyster and his army. We learn from them that the night before the Bishop's arrival the "King of the Commons" was again at Thorpe Market, where he summoned to his side "all men of heart who wish for the welfare of the kingdom and the commons." Meanwhile his lieutenant, John Gyldyng of Heydon, went in haste from vill to vill, to Wood Dalling, Sall and Corpusty, calling upon the labourers to arise and stop the bishop and put an end to his wickedness.³⁵ It appears from these documents that the fight, if fight there were, took place on June 25th or 26th. Battle or no battle, the rebellion was undoubtedly crushed at North Walsham, and retribution came as an immediate sequel.

Lyster's execution was followed by an episcopal progress through the county with the express object of punishing rebels, the bishop even going so far as to seize upon some unfortunate fugitives in the act of taking sanctuary.³⁶ As the Chronicler Knighton relates, "the bishop, treating the rebels as they deserved, spared no one, meting out to some death, to others prison and irons."

Royal justice came hard on the heels of episcopal repression, and on the whole the State showed itself to be the more merciful of the two. The judge chosen by the King was William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, who in the early days of the Rising had actually

33. Réville, p. 140.

34. Rye, *History of Norfolk*, p. 55.

35. *Assize Rolls*, N. 2, 29, 6, m. 1., pt. 2d., and m. 29.

36. Réville, p. 140.

been invited by the Norfolk rebels to become their leader.³⁷ The law seems to have been enforced fairly and justly, and though twenty-eight rebels were executed in Norfolk, and sixteen in Suffolk, many escaped absolutely scot free, or were pardoned in the general amnesty of December, 1381. Naturally enough, a number of the rebels took flight and thus escaped punishment, amongst them being John Wattes and Richard Bemond.

Not only the ringleaders but also their aiders and abettors had to suffer for their misdeeds, as, for example, Ralph Barbour of Norwich, who was summoned before the Earl on the charge of buying from persons unknown a psalter and other goods, being part of the spoil of Henry Lomynour's house.³⁸

In the Hundred of North Erpingham the following jury was sworn, and amongst the names will be noticed those of John atte Wode, Richard de Reppes and John Gogel, who no doubt represented the Soke of Gimingham, with the small separate manor, Side-strand-Poynnyngs. These three families were connected with the Soke for a period of many hundred years, the atte Wodes being of Side-strand, the de Reppes of North and South Repps and Thorpe Market, and the Gogels of Gimingham.

John atte Wode.	Sworn
Richard de Reppes.	"
John Abbe.	"
John Hestong.	"
James Wylly, excused (?).	"
Adam Hare.	"
Robert de Holand.	
Richard Warner.	
John Gogel.	
John atte Duffhous.	
Robert Tebald.	
Richard atte Medwe.	

37. "And since it appeared to them [the rebels] that they had no great authority for their evil deeds, they purposed to join to themselves my lord William Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, that if perchance the Commons should in time to come be called to account for their deeds, they might point to him as being a magnate and a peer of the realm with whose countenance and connivance they had done these things. But the Earl, being forewarned of their coming, arose suddenly from the feast at which he was sitting, and making his way through desert places and by by-roads and détours, always avoiding the gatherings of the people, made his way at length to Saint Albans; and so he came to the King feigning to be a servant of my lord Roger de Bois, and carrying a wallet upon his back." Translated from the Latin of the *Chronicon Angliae* by S. J. Paget.

38. Réville, p. 155. *Assize Roll*, N. 2, 29, 6, m. 61.

William Deen (?)	Sworn
John de Hales, of Roughton.	
Andrew de Stokton.	„
Vincent Groom.	
Thomas de Filmyngham.	
John Rolves.	
Thomas Fox.	
John Perkyn.	
Richard Brase.	
William Symondes.	
John Hegge.	
Richard Glanvyll.	
John de Gresham.	„
Edward (Edmund?) Colman	„
John de Gosyngham (?) ³⁹	„

The Assizes ended the rebellion, but the records of the escheated property of the rebels which was compiled later reveals the rather surprising fact that many of them were men of substance, and that none of them were without some property. Apart from Sir Roger Bacon, knight, who was the representative of an important Norfolk family and who obtained a free pardon from the Queen, we find men like the Suffolk leader Thomas Sampson⁴⁰ with goods valued at £65 12s. 8d., or his Norfolk namesake another Thomas Sampson, of Weston, whose fortune amounted to £20,⁴¹ or Thomas Browne, of Totyngton with £9 6s. 8d. worth of property.⁴² Again amongst the same batch of escheators' inquisitions and accounts we read of a Norfolk man, Henry de Bungey, domiciled at Canterbury, who took part in the Kentish Rising. He was an armourer by trade, but held 36 acres of arable land at Mundham, 2s. 6d. of rent there and a ruined cottage at Yarmouth.⁴³ He was beheaded on June 21st, 1381, the rebellion in Kent having begun and ended earlier than the Norfolk effort.

Geoffrey Lyster himself was not as prosperous as some of his lieutenants, his goods being valued at 33s. 9d., for which his widow Agnes and Henry Bettes, of Felmingham (himself an indicted traitor) had to answer.⁴⁴

39. *Ancient Indictments*, No. 166, m. 92.

40. *Escheators Enrolled Acct.*, No. 8, m. 17. The long and interesting inventory of his possessions is printed by Powell, p. 143.

41. *Ibid.*

42. *Ibid.*

43. *Escheators Enrolled Acct.* No. 8, m. 17. The inventory of his possessions is printed by Powell, p. 143, and *Escheators Account*, 123-5.

44. *Escheators Inquisitions*, Series 1, File 1168, m. 4, and *Escheators Enrolled Acct.*, No. 8, m. 29.

<i>Thomas Sampson</i> , of the same, beheaded, had goods value	£20 0 0
for which William Berard, King's Escheator, does not answer, "because they are in the hands of Thomas Pirt of Attleborough and William Pirt of Great Ellyngham, who ought to answer."	
<i>Richard Denarston</i> ,	£6 0 0
<i>Thomas Sampson</i> , of Harsted, Kerseye, and Freston, [the Suffolk rebel]	£65 12 8
<i>John Battisford</i> , parson of the Church of Boklisham [Bucklesham, Suffolk]	100s.
<i>Thomas Fletcher of Bergholte</i> beheaded 17 Aug., Ao. 5. in goods	29s.
and for one cottage in Bergholte	2s.
<i>John de Cross</i> or <i>dil Cross</i> , of Shellond	20s.
<i>William Baxtere</i> , of Botelisdale	6s. 8d.
<i>Thomas Browne</i> , of Totyngton	£9 6s. 8d.
In the <i>Escheators Accounts</i> , 123/4, in a similar context is the name of <i>Thomas Grouve</i> , of Totyngton, with goods valued at 14 marks, for which the escheator does not answer, "because they came to the hands of Sir John Straunge, Kt., who ought to answer." The two entries possibly have reference to the same individual.	
<i>John Elys</i> , of Hornyng	13s. 4d.
<i>John son of Thomas of Hornyng</i>	13s. 4d.

No. 8. (m. 29.)

Account of John Rede, King's escheator in Norfolk and Suffolk, 28 October, Ao. 5 (1381) to 12 December Ao. 6 (1382). He answers *inter alia* for £44 15s. 7d. of the issues of lands and tenements in his hands, and of the goods of outlaws and felons, fugitives, etc., as appears in his roll of particulars. [This Escheator's Account Roll is unfortunately missing].

Then follows a list of persons from whom money is due; including:—

Thomas atte Assch, bailiff to the Bishop of Ely, at Milford, of the goods and chattles, valued at £15, which were of *Roger Hunt*, traitor. (In the Escheator's Accounts, 123/5, from 12 Dec. Ao. 6 (1382) to 1 Dec. Ao. 7 (1383), William Hastings, escheator, answers for 2s., issues of 2 acres in Walsoken, which were of *Robt. Hunte*, traitor.)

Henry Bettes of Felmingham, and *Agnes formerly wife of Geoffrey Lyster* of the same, ought to answer for the goods and chattels of the same [elsewhere given as of the value of 33s. 9d., Henry Bettes being therein described as a traitor, see pp. 121-2].

Nicholas Drake, Richard Cok and *Agnes wife of John Bettes, of North Walsham*, ought to answer for the goods and chattels of the same John, a fugitive for treason, valued at 40s.

John Rust of Bradfeld ought to answer for the goods and chattels of *Richard Beamond*, a fugitive for treason, valued at 28s. 8d. (*Robert Smyth of Rydlyngton*, traitor, also occurs).

In the Account for 1382-3 (123/5) William Hastings, the escheator, makes these additional returns:—

18d. for 3 acres in *Tylneye*, which were of *Adam de Henemethe*, traitor, who made flight.

Of 36 acres of arable land in *Mundham* and 2s. 6d. rent there, 1 ruined cottage in *Great Yarmouth*, which were of *Henry Bungeye of Canterbury*, armorer, convicted and beheaded, he (the escheator) does not answer, for reasons set out.

2s. 1 messuage and 1½ acres of land in *Tylneye*, which were of *James Bouterie* (?), traitor and fugitive, held in right of Joan his wife.

When once the Assizes were over, Parliament was only too anxious for the restoration of law and order and no further steps were taken to punish the rebels, except by the formal revocation of all deeds of manumission which had been obtained by force during the revolt. As M. Petit-Dutaillis has said, "on épargna le sang du peuple, mais on était résolu maintenant à étouffer ses plaintes et à reserrer ses entraves." In December an amnesty was granted to all those concerned in the Rising, a few rebels being specially excepted by name, notably John Wattes, Richard Filmond, John Gentilhomme, Thomas de Suffolk and Henry Ryse.

The Rising had been subdued, its leaders were dead or fugitives, and its only apparent result was a closer unification of the privileged classes. M. Petit-Dutaillis sums up the significance and results of the struggle in the following illuminating passage:—

"Plus vif désir de changement parmi les classes populaires, volonté nouvelle de réaction chez les privilégiés, esprit de défiance et de résistance des deux parts, voilà quels sentiments la rébellion laissait dans l'âme de ses auteurs et de ses victimes. Les événements de 1381 n'avaient pas produit dans l'évolution historique du peuple anglais un mouvement en avant, mais une simple oscillation, assez ample cependant pour contribuer à détruire l'ancienne harmonie de ce corps social.

La révolte de 1381 n'aurait-elle eu aucun résultat, elle garderait pour l'historien une valeur exceptionnelle, parce que, pour employer les expressions d'André Réville, elle est 'un fait révélateur, l'expression spontanée de l'état moral et des besoins sociaux du peuple anglais à la fin du XIV^e siècle'. Il y a bien des gestes humains qui n'ont eu que peu ou prou de conséquences, et que le savant ne doit cependant pas négliger, parce qu'ils sont *significatifs*. L'insurrection de 1381 a été un de ces éclairs qui illuminent subitement la vie obscure des masses populaires."⁴⁶

Reactionary legislation was the only apparent result of the rebellion. In 1385 a statute was passed ordering the extradition from the towns of villeins fugitive from the country; in 1388 the children of villeins were forbidden to leave the manor above the age of twelve, and in 1391 villein parents were prohibited from sending their children to school lest they should attempt by means of education to thrust themselves into ecclesiastical careers, which of course would necessitate their enfranchisement.

The Peasants' Rising of 1381 ended in hopeless failure—its leaders crushed, its aims unaccomplished. All the same it had done something to advance the cause of the labourer, for though it had failed to abolish bondage it had none the less raised the position of the bondman, who from that day onwards became a person to be taken into account both socially and politically.⁴⁷ His masters and rulers wished to avoid another outburst of violence and the peasants themselves had had enough fighting to last them for a couple of centuries.

A slight recrudescence of the rising in September of the following year directed against the hated bishop of Norwich, and the equally unpopular Abbey of St. Benet of Holme, met with only local support and was soon suppressed.⁴⁸

46. p. cxxxvi.

47. See Petit-Dutaillis, p. cxxxii.

48. *The Escheators Inquisition* (Series File 1168, m. 12) gives the names and the value of the property of those who took part in it. They were nearly all of them natives of Blofeld.

Inquisition taken at Norwich, 20 Oct., 6 Rich. II. The jury say that Thomas Collynge, who for treason against the King on 25 September Ao. 6, before Sir Thomas de Morlee, Chevalier—(N.B. One of Lyster's captive knights in 1381), and his fellow justices assigned to try rebels at Norwich, was convicted and beheaded, and had at *Blofeld* goods and chattles to the value of 2s.

Roger servant of Robert Gryme, Chaplain, traitor, beheaded the same day, had there (Blofeld) goods value 3s.

Richard de Ry, executed as above, had goods there value 5s.

William Crede (?) of Blofeld, had goods value 4s.

John Dod, traitor, etc., had goods there value 17s. 4d.

Adam Tailor, traitor of *Blofeld*, had goods there value 7s. 4d.

This abortive attempt is thus described in the *Chronicon Angliae*.

"About the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel (1382) certain persons in Norfolk possessed of the devil, not being chastened in spirit by the dangers of their brethren, nor frightened by the deaths and tortures of others, made a conspiracy and gathered themselves together for evil, and purposed, if fortune favoured them, to intercept the bishop of Norwich and all the magnates of the county and kill them by subtlety. And that they might gain for themselves more support, they decided to go by stealth to the market at St. Faiths and to force all those gathered there together to swear loyalty to them or to suffer death forthwith. This plan they accomplished and purposed further to seize the abbey of S. Bennet of Hulm, which they thought would be a stronghold for them if any danger should threaten them and their evil deeds. But all this was stopped before it could be carried into effect and the rising was subdued."

For a few weeks the Soke of Gimingham had been in the very centre of a social upheaval with the local hero John de Trunch as one of its captains, and with his neighbour Geoffrey Lyster as Commander-in-Chief and General Director. After the death of their leaders one can fancy the labourers and artizans relapsing into their habitual inarticulateness and inactivity, hopelessly feeling that their grievances were impossible of redress in this world at any rate. It comes almost as anti-climax to find in the Gimingham Court Roll for 1382 an entry recording the fact that John de Trunch had forfeited his goods and holding for treason—he had already paid the penalty of his life to a higher authority than the Manor Court!

A fortunate find amongst Lord Suffield's muniments of the Gimingham Court Roll for 4-5 Richard II. (1381-2) enables me to complete the story of the rebels within the Soke. At a Court holden there "on Wednesday next before the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin 5 Ric. II.," we find some trouble arising from the fact that the Lord's rolls have been burnt by the malefactors in the late disturbance, the case in point being stated as follows:—

Whereas in the roll of the issues of land being in the hands of the lord of the preceding year it is thus enrolled "of the issues of one cottage and four acres of land formerly of William Brante seized into the hands of the lord for waste made in the same cottage etc. issued 12d," now come John Tramme the

James Atte Chirche, traitor, had goods there value 13s.

Henry Wryghte of Beighton, traitor, had at Beighton goods value 8s.

Adam Okeby of Thirkeby, Co. Norfolk, traitor, had there goods value

20s. 4d.

William Spycer, of Wymondham, traitor, convicted on 3 Sep., 1406, had at Wymondham goods, etc., value 40s.

elder and John Tramme the younger and they say that they took the said land out of the hands of the lord as next heirs of the same William Brante at the Court held here on Wednesday next after the feast of Easter in the preceding year as appears by extracts of the court aforesaid, by a heriot etc. according to the custom etc. upon which an inquisition is taken by the oath of John Rapere William Freresman William Paunne John Gotte John Colmesson Thomas de Trunch John Dyekeyth Richard Warner John Aleyn Thomas Smyth de Trymingham and John Gogel sworn for this *because the rolls of the Court aforesaid were burnt amongst other rolls of the lord by the malefactors at the time of the disturbance in this part* which juror's say upon their oath that the aforesaid John and John took the aforesaid land out of the hands of the lord in the manner aforesaid which is likewise testified by the whole homage and by extract of the Court aforesaid the clerk then being ignorant of the delivery made to them by the roll aforesaid etc.

Further down on the same membrane we get an "Enquiry as to damage to the lord's corn in the previous year. It is presented that John son Roger de Dwy (?), Thomas son of Ralph Lister, [perhaps a relation to Geoffrey Lister himself], and the Chaplain of Robert Hereward, John de Langham, servant of the Prior of Bromholm, John de Leem, John son of John atte Wode [of Sidestrand], Peter de Holm, John Saword, parson of the church of Oxenede, and many others unknown, in the time of the disturbance did damage in the lord's barley in Southwodecroft to the value of six quarters of barley.

Thomas Collard did likewise in the lord's peas to the value of 2 bushells.

Edmund de Arneshill to the value of 2 bushells of peas. The same Edmund in the mowing of the Lord's oats at Gardeneresyerd to the value of 4 bushells of oats.

Ralph de Nethergate and Richard Barker, of Knapton, did damage by making an unlawful way, to the value of 4 bushells of oats.

Oliver Attehill did likewise in the mowing of the Lord's oats to the value of ——— of oats.

William Rook did likewise to the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ (?) a bushell of oats.

Roger de Berford, Walter Gerveys, Oliver at Hil and William Rok likewise did damage in the peas at Millecroft to the value of 4 bushells of peas.

(m. 4d).

William Paunne did damage in the oats of the lord at Cuttyngeswong to the value of one bushell of oats.

And Thomas Child, Robert atte Grene, John Reed, the younger, John Gotte (?), William Fox and John Gulde did damage in the lord's barley to the value of 6 bushells of barley.

Roger Sherberde did damage in the lord's oats *juxta mes suu* to the value of 2 bushells of oats."

At the Court holden "on Monday the feast of St. Catherine the Virgin, 5 Ric. II.," we get a very curious case of a man wrongfully detained and fined as a rebel on the accusation of John Herman of Paston.

(m. 2d).

"John Kyng, of Trunch, complains of John Herman of Paston, in a plea of trespass, whereof he complains that the same John Herman on a certain day in the time of the late disturbance in this part, of his own malice unjustly accused the said John Kyng before the justices of the lord the King then at the time appointed for chastising and punishing malefactors, affirming that the same John Kyng was sworn to the said malefactors and was consenting to the prosecution of their malefactions, for which accusation the said John Kyng was attached before the said justices as a traitor to the lord the King and detained in their custody until he found sureties in a penalty of £40 to stand for judgment, to the damage of the said John Kyng of £40. And the aforesaid John Herman says that he did not affirm him to be sworn or consenting (to the rebels, etc.) and when it was sworn before the justices he said, that he heard say that the same John Kyng was sworn as above; otherwise he has not accused him, (etc.) And this he is ready to prove by putting himself on the country (etc.) Therefore he is ordered to come against the next Court" (etc.)

On the next membrane reference is made "to certain malefactors in the manor in the time of the rising," and a day is given for better enquiry. It is no doubt amongst these that the name of John Trunch occurs, but unfortunately the original roll for 1382-3 cannot be consulted, the Blickling MSS. being absolutely inaccessible to the public!

With the example of Trunch before them the men of Gimingham Soke were not inclined to run the risk of a similar fate and they held aloof from the unimportant revolt of September, 1382. They kept equally clear of subsequent popular risings and took no further part in public affairs until the year 1885, when, rather to their surprise, the labourers were granted the Parliamentary Franchise.

CHAPTER VII.

THE MANOR AND ITS RECORDS.

(October 1381 to 1499).

The Manor Courts were the essence of manor life. As F. W. Maitland wrote, "all disputes among men of the manor can be determined within the manor. Were this not so the manor would fall to pieces, and when in course of time it ceases to be so the manor becomes insignificant—is no longer in any sense a community."¹

The Court Rolls are the reports of the transactions of the three Courts of the manor: (a) the Court Leet, dealing with purely legal matters, sometimes called the *Curia Visus Franci plegii* or "View of Frankpledge," which was "usually held twice a year to register all the male population from twelve years upwards, to present those who have not joined the tithings, and sometimes to elect the heads or representatives of these divisions—the 'Capitales plegii' "²; (b) the Court Baron; and (c) the Customary Court which had to deal with the surrender and conveyancing of bond land, questions regarding tenure, enclosures, common husbandry, disputes, trespasses, stray animals, poaching, assize breaking and many other petty crimes. These Courts were essentially a meeting of the whole community under the presidency of the lord or his steward, and both lord and tenant alike had to abide by its decisions.

In Gimmingham the Steward and Bailiff attended specially to the lord's interests and to the management of the estate. The Reeve was the principal elected officer of the manor. Professor Vinogradoff has said that "serving as a reeve was also deemed a mark of villainage, because such an office took up much time, placed the holder of it in direct intercourse with the Steward and exposed him to all sorts of unpleasant and unforeseen requirements."³ In some manors the Reeve seems to have been nominated by the lord, but in the Soke of Gimmingham he was chosen by the tenants.⁴ In later

1. Collected Papers, Vol. II., p. 86.

2. Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 363.

3. *The Growth of the Manor*, p. 348.

4. See complaint by "Erasmus Reynolds, reve, of Edingthorpe, John Gogle of Gymingham, and Robte Bateman, Hayward, of Thorpe Market, tenants of Gymingham, that tyme owt of mynd anye man have from tyme to tyme used by sutch as have ben Tents of the said mannor to electe and chose sutch able and sufficient psons for haywardes, Reves and othr officers of the said Corte of Gymingham for the tourne collecon and accompts of sutch service, etc.—*D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 80, R2.

times at any rate the office was held by persons of gentle birth, such as Samuel Matchett in 1637, the Rev. Thomas Thexton in 1640, Robert Browne, *gent.* in 1641, George Gryme, *gent.* in 1642, John Blyford, *gent.* in 1643, and so on. There was only one Reeve for the whole manor, and below him came the Hayward and eight or nine Wickners. A new Reeve was elected each year at Michaelmas, or in the words of an Elizabethan suit, the tenants have "from tyme to tyme yearely and eury yeare at the Court of the sayd mannor used and accustomed to chose one of the Tenants to be Reve for one whole yeare begininge at the feast of St. Michaell tharchangll for the year followinge [and] shall have the Collectinge and gatheringe of the Rentes of the sayde mannor due unto her Ma^{tie}."⁵ Besides collecting the rents, the Reeve at the end of the year had to receive the money collected by the Wickners for fines and other dues, and to see that their accounts tallied with the estreats previously given them by the Steward. In case of default he could distrain their goods to the value of the sum in arrears, but for this purpose he had to be furnished by the Auditor with a warrant called a "Constat." Finally the Reeve had to hand over all monies and accounts to the Auditor when he paid his annual visit to the manor to check its finances.

A Duchy Suit of 31 Elizabeth telling the story of a defaulting Wickner and the subsequent action of the Reeve will be found in a later chapter.

The Messor (mower) or Hayward was another official elected annually by the tenants at Michaelmas. He was responsible for the allotment of the strips of common pasture and had to see that the "Shack" rules were not infringed. He had also to enforce obedience to the customs of the manor in the cultivation of the open fields, to watch over the sheep walk rights and to impound stray animals found within the Soke.

The Pound of Gimingham still stands at the four cross ways leading to Mundesley, Trunch, South Repps and to Gimingham itself. Probably the village Guild Hall adjoined the Pound, for the nearest field to it on the north-west is called "Town House Close."

The Hayward was also answerable for the due performance of the bond services, and each wickner had to hand in to him an annual account of all works done, commuted or lost.

The Wickner, wigner, or wigener, was an officer elected by each vill, township or wick within the Soke to collect the ameracements and other dues imposed upon the inhabitants at the Manor

5. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 147, p. 4.

Courts. The mode of election was curious, for the tenement and not the tenant was chosen to perform the office. Sometimes, however, in the 16th and 17th centuries, an individual was elected by name to fill the post. He received a stipend from certain land charges, nearly every house or tenement rendering a few pence for this purpose. In the rental of Richard III., twenty-two tenements in Gimmingham alone were charged "upon the acre" with sums ranging from 3d. to 11d. The Steward or understeward of the manor was expected to send to each Wickner an estreat of every court to show him what "fines, issues, amercements and profits" he had to collect in his vill. When the money had been duly collected, the Wickner, at the end of the year, had to hand it over to the Reeve, who in his turn paid it over to the Auditor. If any Wickner refused "to make his account" with the Reeve, then the Reeve might apply to the Receiver for a writ called a "Constat for the levyinge of sutch arrerages as shalbe due . . . by vertue whereof the sd. Reve from tyme to tyme have used to distreine sutch Tenants or Wickners as should fortune to refuse (or) be behinde wth ther Rent or Account," and the goods so taken and impounded were after fourteen days sold for the payment of the debt, any surplus being returned to the owners of the goods.

The qualification for the office of Wickner was one of residence and tenancy and apparently he was required to be in the occupation of land within the Soke. In 1614 the Great Inquest find that Roger Wyggott has been unlawfully elected Wickner for Trunch and "that those chosers did chose him contrary to the custome of the manor . . . for that the sayd Roger Wyggott doth not hold by copy of court roll of the mannor aforsayd Three acres and an halfe of copyhold land of the sayd mannor lyinge in Trunche, neyther is the sayd Roger Wyggott dwellinge or inhabyting wthin the sayd towne of Trunche." The Trunch jury therefore elect "Thomas Howes wickner for this year to end in place of Rg Wiggett." The tenant was liable to fill the office of Wickner once every seventeen years. If the elected Wickner did not wish to serve, he could, at any rate in the 16th Century, write to the Steward, asking to be excused and proposing a deputy in his stead. For example, in 1631 Erasmus Brigge writes "To his vye lovinge and most kinde friend Mr. Bulleyn . . . Mr. Steward, I am soe busye wth worckmenn about repairinge my ruinous houses, Thatt my absence I must needs entreate you to admitt, Butt my depute the bearer hereof Edmond Wattlyn for the wickner of Hulver this yeare These are to entreate you to sweare, wth my rememb^{rae} to yow in all love I rest

Yo^{re} lov. friend Erasmus Brigge

11 Oct 1631.

And I Erasmus Brigge doe hereby the sd daye & yeare appoint Edmond Watlyn of Bradfield to bee deputie Wickner for mee this yeare to come & do her to subscribe

Erasmus Brigge."

The most interesting of these letters asking for exemption is that from Sir Edmund Paston which is printed on p. 378. Occasionally a woman was elected Wickner but as a rule a male substitute was found to execute the obligations of her office. For instance, the Gimingham jury on 7 Sept. 1614 "fynd as pcell of o^r verdyete [verdict] that Ales Skyrrytt wyddow is to goe Wykner for this yere to come and we have apoynted John buries to go in her stead." As late as November, 1719, the Paston jurors nominated a woman—"We chuse Mary Calk [or Call?] widdow to serve y^e office of wickner for y^e yeare ensuing," and in this case there is no mention of a male deputy being chosen.

The village or part of a village for which each Wickner was responsible was sometimes called the Shift. In addition to the Shifts of each of the eight villages within the soke, there was the "Shift of Paston and Edingthorpe," which included land originally held by the earls Warrene in those parishes. From a Duchy suit of 1659⁶ we learn that the wickner of Paston and Edingthorpe Shift had to collect from the small manor of Mundesley (originally held by the Spriggys), an annual rent of 13s. 4d. payable to the Soke of Gimingham.

Certain special privileges attached to the office of Wickner, which as a rule took the form of exemptions from so many days bond work, besides allowances from the "wickner land." In an early 16th Century Manor Book at Gunton we read—"I [item] it is to be noted that y^e wigners of Gymi'ghm, Trunche, Southrepps, Monisley, & Trymi'ghm ar alwaies to have allowance of ther office for their suice [service] belonginge to their office viz the wign of Gymi'ghm 8 days sine cibo. 4 days ad cibo & di carte wth a plog, [i.e., 8 "works" without, and 4 with food, half a day's carting and one day's ploughing]; the wign's of Trunche, Southrepps & Monisley & Trymi'ghm ar to have the like allowances."

Another very obscure passage refers to the Wickner of Sidestrand. "Be it remembered that the wickner of Sedystronde ought to reap for five days in the year in autumn for the wickner of Trimingham, for his five houses Cowgate, Nichi Prest, Warr prest, Eyslynges & Oldema' which is now called Halm'ris" [? Halmers] and then follows an illegible line ending "of old time sixty sheaves

6. *D. of L. Special Depositions*, Norf. 1659, East. 36. Feilder v. Bradfield.

of stubble," (*garbas stipuli*). Apparently in this case the Sidestrand Wickner had to do certain forced works of reaping as a kind of rent to the Wickner of Trimingham for five tenements or houses in Sidestrand, in lieu perhaps of sixty sheaves which had been rendered "of old time."

The name *Wickner* is unusual, and seems to be unknown at the Record Office. I have not found mention of any such title in print, but the Manor Rolls and books of Paston show that there were similar officials there. Of the three manors in Paston two were independent and the third was counted as part of the Soke of Gimingham and was known as the "Shift of Paston and Edingthorpe." In all these three manors there were Wickners and I should like to discover if this official was peculiar to one corner of N.E. Norfolk, or whether the same title is found elsewhere in Norfolk or in any other English county. Bailey's Dictionary states that the "wig-reeve" was an "Overseer of the Highways," an official therefore who had charge of the parish roads, and possibly both offices and titles are connected. In the case of the "wig-reeve" Bailey derives "wig" from the Saxon for way, but it is possible that it came from "wick" (c.f. wigner for wickner) and that it was derived from his duty of supervising the roads within a special parish, village or wick.

Payments to the Wickner occur in the Sidestrand "Town Book" right up to the close of the 18th Century.

The theory of manorial organisation in Gimingham rested upon the principle that the tenement and not the tenant was the unit to be dealt with. It was the tenement which was obliged to render its dues of servile works or rent in money, and whoever happened to be the tenants of that holding had to arrange amongst themselves how the various burdens should be apportioned. It was as though they inhabited a house of a certain rateable value, the authorities exacting the same amount of rates and taxes whether the occupier was Jones or Brown or Robinson. This theory is well illustrated by the method, already alluded to, of electing the officers of the manor. A tenement and not its occupant was selected to fill the office of Wickner for one year, the tenant probably, but not invariably, becoming Wickner. The Court Rolls are full of entries relating to this custom, for instance, in 1497 the Sidestrand jury "elect the house of Calke (*domu Calke*) in the same place to perform the office of wigener this year, whereof John Mundes, with his parcener [co-heir], holds the same house, and so the same John Mundes is sworn to undertake the same office."

With regard to this custom of electing the Wickners, it is interesting to note that a somewhat similar method of choosing the

manorial officers prevailed at Forncett, which is thus described by Miss Davenport:—"In selecting the Reeve and Messor at Forncett, what appears to have been a new method was employed. One large or several bond tenements were elected by the homage to bear the pecuniary burden of these offices. Twenty acres, charged at 2s. an acre, was the area generally chosen to support the reeveship; and fifteen acres, charged at the same rate, to support the office of messor. Many of the tenements thus burdened were divided among several different tenants, free as well as bond. The person who acted as officer was sometimes one of the tenants of the elected tenements and sometimes not. He was usually but perhaps not invariably a serf. His stipend consisted of the money charged upon the tenements."⁷ The same custom existed in the West Norfolk manor of Whissonsett, where in the Court Roll for 1 Richard II. the tenants "elect the welhous holding for the office of harvester (messor) for the coming year and the tenant is Ralph Simound."⁸

The *raison d'être* of a manor was to be self-supporting rather than profit making, and the officials had to see that each inhabitant took his share in carrying out this ideal. Each township had its jury to adjudicate upon legal disputes, the tenants being expected to serve their turn at a very early age. Complaint is made by the Gimingham jury in 1499 that "William Ponder is of the age of twelve years, and more, and has dwelt within the precincts of this leet one year and a day and more and ought to be sworn on the tithing." The manor had to keep the roads or rights of way clear and passable, and we find in these rolls several presentments for obstructing the highways. In the 1493 Court Roll we get a complaint by the North Repps jury that John Clerk, and Joan his wife, of South Repps, "have not yet laid open the obstruction which they made in a certain *via porall* (or purrilly way) at Sowgate in North-reppes, by which the capital pledges of Northreppes were prevented from having their porrall, as of old time they were wont to have." The *purrilly way* is derived from the French *pour* and *aller*, and means a way for walkers, a foot path in fact,⁹ but its more particular

7. *The Economic Development of a Norfolk Manor*, pp. 50, 51.

8. R. Hewlett, F.S.A., *Villeinage in Norfolk*, Norfolk Antiquarian Misc., 2nd Ser., Pt. 1, p. 9.

9. See W. Rye in the "*Burnham Court Rolls*," Norf: Ant: Misc: Vol. I., p. 148. "In 26 Henry VI." Robert Gunne was fined for not being ready to make a "*porallus*"—what we now call a "*purrilly way*." See also the *East Anglian*, Vol. I., p. 333, "*Purril or Purrilly Way*." "At a meeting of the Norfolk and Suffolk Archæological Societies," held some time ago, mention was made of a Purrill or Purrilly Way. I . . . am not certain whether (the Speaker) said that there is more than one instance of the term, but his Purril Way seemed in the instance he mentioned to be a boundary likewise, and he wished for a derivation of the word. Looking at

meaning in these Gimmingham Rolls is *perambulation way*, or the path on which the parishioners went to beat the bounds.¹⁰ The placing or removal of boundaries was a serious offence in those days of open field agriculture, and enclosures could only be permitted if the lord's licence had been obtained, for which privilege a lump sum or a yearly due was exacted. I fancy that the enclosure of the common fields was a very gradual process in the Soke of Gimmingham, for the rolls are full of fines to the lord for leave to make boundaries, and at no subsequent period do we find any anti-enclosure agitation in this district. Ket's rebellion does not seem to have found favour in the Hundred of North Erpingham, and the obvious reason for this is shown in the "Domesday of Inclosures" of 1517. In that survey enclosures are only recorded in three parishes in this Hundred, viz., Suffield, 30 acres, Town Barningham, 24 acres and North Barningham, 8 acres,¹¹ (none of which are adjacent to the Soke). I have come across no early dispute or 18th Century Enclosure Act dealing with the parishes within the jurisdiction of the Soke. Peter Rede broke up the Park into separate fields in Edward VI.'s reign, but apart from that, enclosure on a large scale never took place there, and I can but conclude that the small and irregular fields and the thick old fences which exist at the present day are the results of licences to enclose in the far off days before Acts and legal allotments had been thought of.

The Land.

Land in Gimmingham Soke is described by a variety of names. The terms "free land" and "bond or native land" explain themselves. "Soiled land" signifies free land in the tenure of a bondman, who has thus soiled it. The common land or waste lay in a long and wide strip at the southernmost boundary of the Soke, and extending beyond it into the parishes of Thorpe Market, Antingham and Bradfield. Much of it still remains in its original wildness at the present day and it is usually known as South Reps or Lower Street Common. "Heath" and "meadow" are obvious in their meaning, but occasionally the old Saxon word "wong" is used in place of the latter word. "Field land" of course denotes arable land in the open fields. Land is frequently described as

Cowel's Interpreter, voce Purlieu. I find that he quotes Manwood on the Forest Laws, as deriving Purlieu from *pourallee*, i.e., perambulation. In another part of the article Cowel derives *Pourallee* from *pur*, purus, and *alee*, ambulatio. I do not see why it should not be from the French *Pour*, for, and *allee*, walk, and to be the origin of the Purril or Purrilly Way."—E. G. R.

10. See, post pp. 334-8.

11. The total acreage of North Erpingham Hundred is 37,770. See *Trans. R. Hist. Soc.*, N.S. Vol. VII.

"sel," which we may consider an abbreviation for the Latin equivalent of "selionated," i.e., lying in selions or strips in the common fields. Often we find mention of "selond" or "sealond," a word which is certainly not connected with the *sea*, but is more probably a corruption of *sulung*, *solonda*, *sulland*, a ploughland. The narrow boundaries of sods in the fields are invariably called by the old names of meres, mere-balks and mire balks. We find tragic details of "sea-fall land" or "land in the sea" in all the Gimingham records and, alas, the rapid encroachment of the sea still continues.

The Tenants.

The tenants of the Soke do not seem to have been heavily burdened with bond services and it is perhaps for this very reason that bondage survived there to such an unusually late date, for had it been a more crying grievance it would have been abolished sooner. After all *bondus* is only a Danish word for "cultivator, husbandman," and in so free and Danish a district as North Norfolk, bondage was more closely related to husbandry than to servitude. True, the villeins had to render to the lord "merchet" on the marriage of a daughter, "chevage" for licence to live outside the manor and "heriot" as succession duty on the death of a tenant, they had to work so many days in harvest for the lord, plough for him now and again, help with his carrying and carting, and bring him a fowl by way of rent once a year, but on the whole they had a fairly ample freedom, the greater proportion of their working time was their own and their tenure was absolutely secure to them—in fact they were in many ways better off than the badly paid agricultural labourer of the present day.

Families remained for centuries in the occupation of the same holdings and the tenements or "houses" themselves bore the names of *quondam* tenants who had held them centuries earlier. And even now in 1916, not a few of the same old Soke names still survive here in unbroken descent from the families whose names we read in these Court Rolls. Truly there is continuity of tenure in the country!

The Records.

The records of the Soke which tell us nearly all we know of Gimingham-Lancaster in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries fall into two principal groups—the Court Rolls and the Ministers' Accounts. These are supplemented in the present instance by a lease of the demesne in 1462 and a detailed Rental of 1485.

One curious point to be noticed in all these records is that from an early date the vill of Knapton appears to have been more or less independent of the jurisdiction of Gimingham, although technically it was included in the Soke. It will be remembered that in the Domesday Survey Knapton and part of Siderstrand were added to Gimingham to make up one geldable unit, but I fancy that

neither of them were ever entirely incorporated in the Soke. This view is borne out by the fact that the independent portion of Sidestrand formed the separate manor of Sidestrand-Poynings, which held its own Courts and whose liberties were not dependent on Gimingham, though the remainder of the vill owed suit to Gimingham. Knapton in the same way probably had its own manorial jurisdiction, and at any rate a Knapton jury finds no place in the Gimingham Courts, even though certain pleas and suits of Knapton tenants are decided therein. On the other hand the outlying members of Paston and Hulver are regularly represented in the Soke Courts.

The Court
Rolls.

The Gimingham Court Rolls have been dispersed in various directions, some are in Lord Suffield's muniment room at Gunton, a large number are in the public Record Office, and a few are inaccessibly buried amongst the MSS. at Blickling. I have been able to examine at any rate some of the rolls in the first two collections, and I think that the best way to illustrate the kind of information which they contain is to give a series of long extracts from several different rolls. The oldest one extant is that of 5-6 Richard II. (1381-2) which I was fortunate enough to discover amongst the uncatalogued and unsorted MSS. at Gunton. In a previous chapter I have transcribed from it all the entries which refer to malefactors in the Peasants' Revolt, but since it is the earliest roll left to us, I feel I may add here a few more extracts from it.

The first Courts are held on "Wednesday next St. Luke, the Evangelist," and on "Monday the Feast of St. Catherine the Virgin" 5 Richard II., and these deal almost entirely with the affairs of rebel peasants. In the next Court held on "Wednesday next before the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin" the following business is recorded.

Merchet.

"Merchet of 10 shillings is received of Agnes daughter of Clement Buc' [? Duc'], native of the lord, for licence to marry herself to a certain man outside the manor." Alan de Paston and Clement de Paston, parties to a plea.¹² Edmund Gryme surrenders land in Sidestrand.

Houses presented for default of suit.

The House of Derkyn in Gyminham: the House of Doward: the House of Derkeine (?) in Trunch: the moiety of the House of Yne in Monesle: the House of Godwynpreest, [? in Trimmingham], and the House of Watelotclerk in Sidestrand.

Court holden on the Wednesday next after St. Matthew the Apostle.

Surrender by the hands of Ralph Taillour, wickener of Side-

12. Nicholas de Paston paid subsidy in Trunch in 6 Edward III.

strond, of land in Sidestrond, including "heythelond." "Land called Heythelond" is similarly mentioned in Gimingham, Trimmingham and Trunch, and "Wodelond" in Trunch. Probably at that date there were wide stretches of heath, wood and waste. "Boyedalelond" also occurs in Gimingham.

Court holden on Wednesday the feast of St. Gregory.

"At a Court held on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Agnes the second,¹³ 5 Ric. II. it is thus enrolled:—William Race surrendered one rood of land in Trunch at Shotescroft to the use of Edmund Grym and his heirs, and livery thereof is made to them [etc.]. And now comes Clement Race, brother of the said William and puts in a claim to the said land to hold as next of blood [etc.] according to the custom of the manor: And the said Edmund does not deny this [etc.] Therefore an inquisition is taken for (the purpose) of saying truly which of them may be next (tenant), by the oath of John Oye Heithe, John Dybald, "Cuittema" (*sic*), Gervas Richeresson, John Kynges de P. [*sic* for Paston], John Fyssh, Henry Nusse, William Freresman, John Aleyn, Bartholomew Qwetmatt (Qweyntment), John Reed the elder and Adam Grey, who say that the aforesaid Clement shall be next according to the custom because he is next of blood [etc.], and the aforesaid Edmund being sworn to truly speak of all his expenses [etc.], the said Clement forthwith satisfies him [etc.] And by the grace of the lord seisin is delivered of the said land to the said Clement and his heirs, to hold at the will of the lord by the service and customs of the manor" [etc.] The custom in this and other surrenders referred to is set out in a later document as follows,

Custom of
The Manor.

"A CUSTOM(And yf any lond holden of the lorde by copy be solde to anye man and in y^e court surrendered & y^e fyne of y^e lond to y^e lorde be made, Whosoever [ever] of y^e bloud of y^e fyrste tenant wyll clayme y^e forsayde londe in y^e cort wthin y^e thyrd court holden after y^e surrender fyne made of y^e same londe, he shall holde y^e sayde londe of y^e fyne afore made & shall not paye no other fyne but shall geve to y^e seller of y^e fyrst p^{ce} " [price].

Merchet.

"Agnes, daughter of Roger Glover, native of the lord, pays 3s. 4d. for licence to marry this time" "andm libo."

Court holden on Wednesday in three weeks of Easter.

"Whereas in the Court held here on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle last past it is thus enrolled: William Cordyng surrendered to the lord one rood of land opposite

13. There are two feasts of St. Agnes.

the messuage of Gaule in Trymyngham to the use of John Pays and Agnes his wife and their heirs, and livery thereof is made to them [etc:] upon which comes Gervas Richeresson, kinsman of the aforesaid William and makes a claim to the said land to hold as next of blood according to the custom of the manor. And the John and Agnes being questioned cannot deny that the said Gervase is the next heir of the blood. The said John is sworn as to his true expenses, which the said Gervasse immediately satisfied, and by the lord's grace livery is made to him of the rood [etc:]

A somewhat similar custom applied to co-tenants of a holding.

ustom. "A COSTOM(And yf certeyne ptenerse [partners] of a ctayne [certain] house dothe sell hys pte [part] of hys house & londe of the same house & y^t [that] londe in the court be not (*sic*) surrendered y^e other ptener of y^e house shall have the fore sayde londe yf he wyll clayme y^t as above." This custom is illustrated by the following entry.

"Rich. Oyeheil (?) surrenders $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land called Wodelond in Trunch to the use of Roger Kentyng. John atte Heyth claims the same, as he is the native of the lord of the blood, and holds parcel of the parcenary of the said land according to the custom of the manor."

Two Charters are here enrolled (dated Epiphany, 4 Ric. II.) of John Alunday of Knapton and Margaret his wife to Adam Grey of the same, and Emma his wife, and William their son, of land in Knapton.

Court holden on Wednesday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 6 Ric. II.

Chevage. Chevage paid by natives of the lord for licence to "dwell without the lord's lordship this year."

Thomas Richers, 4d., that he may dwell in Brynyngham.

John Stannard, 2s.

John Craske, 2s., that he may dwell in Norwich.

Thomas Craske, 2s., that he may dwell in Great Yarmouth.

John Tracey, 12d., that he may dwell in Shyrngham.

Roger Scarlet, 4d., that he may dwell in Blakeney.

John, son of Walter Copping, 3d., that he may dwell in Hevyng-
ham.

John Pyt, 3s. 4d., that he may dwell in Wyveton.

John Griffyn, 4d., that he may dwell in Wyveton.

William Dockyng, 8d., that he may dwell in Bacton.

The Court Rolls belonging to the years next following, viz., 6, 7, 8, 9 and also 16-20 Ric. II. are shut up at Blickling and it is impossible for students to gain access to them. The Rolls for the intermediate years are at Gunton, and the Public Record Office series begins in 20-21 Richard II. and covering a period down to 21 Henry VIII.¹⁴ The gaps in the Record Office sequence seem usually to be filled by the Gunton collection, which moreover carries the story down to the beginning of the 18th century. With such a quantity of material to draw upon it is only possible to give extracts from a few typical rolls.

But before passing to a survey of these Court Rolls we must look at another type of Roll which throws light on the economic working of the demesne. The Ministers' Accounts give us the balance sheets of the manorial officers and are of sufficient interest to speak for themselves. The Record Office preserves a very full series of these Gimingham accounts¹⁵ of which the earliest is dated 16 Richard II. (1391-2).

In this particular year the total receipts of the manor accounted for by the Reeve amounted to £259 5s. 10½d., and the expenditure to £252 14s. 7¾d. This does not look a very profitable state of affairs to our modern eyes, but it must be remembered that at the end of the 14th century money did not count for everything and that the "raison d'être" of the manor was to be self-supporting rather than a source of revenue to the lord. As time went on this gradually altered and all (instead of part of) the demesne lands were let at a regular money rent. The actual receipts of the manor tended, however, to decrease from year to year.

In 1391-3 123 acres 3½ roods of the lord's land was under the plough, 75a. 2½r. growing barley, 34a. 2r. oats and 13a. 3r. peas. The mowing, gathering, binding and shocking of the barley and oat **Bond Works.** crop was performed by 496 autumn works, at a cost of 41s. 4d. (1d. each), and of the pea crop by 40 works at a cost of 3s. The carrying of the corn amounted to 14 works at 6s. 6d. and 14¾d. for the hire of carts. The wages of the Reeve and Messor were 6s. each for four weeks, with an additional 2s. for the latter's services in autumn.

On another page 26 winter and 4 summer works are valued at 16d., i.e., ½d. each for the former and ¾d. for the latter, while

14. The Court Rolls in the P.R.O. are for 20-21 Ric. II. (2 membranes); 7 Hen. IV. (2 m.); 14 Hen. IV. (1 m.); 2-6 Hen. V. (4 m.); 2 Hen. VI. (1 m.); 4 Hen. VI. (2 m.); 19 Hen. VI. (3 m.); 32-33 Hen. VI. (3 m.); 4-5 Edw. IV. (4 m.); 12-16 Edw. IV. (3 m.); 18-19 Edw. IV. (3 m.); 8-15 Hen. VII. (5 m.); 21 Hen. VIII., with an undated roll (4 m.)

15. There are also a few at Blickling of varying dates between 1382 and 1410.

79 days' hoeing in summer costs 3s. 10½d. (*sic*), mowing and hay-making 18 acres in the lord's meadow of Estcroft is charged at 12s. Customary brewing and the payment of hens as rent also find mention in these accounts.

Idage. 20s. 11d. is received for 151 sheep in the lord's fold at 1d. each.

Wages. These accounts show us what were the wages of the hired servants, viz., annual wages for two men for ploughing and carting, 14s. and ten quarters and three bushels of barley: to the cowherd, 3s. 6d. and four quarters and two bushels of barley: to the dairyman, 1s. 8d. and three quarters and two bushels of barley: to the barker, shepherd or keeper of the fold, 7s. and one bushel and a half of barley.¹⁶

Nicholas de Chambre, the warrener, is a much more important personage, for "next to the profession of arms venery is the most serious and respected pursuit of the times." He gets a salary of 30s. 4d., which is in fact a great deal more than the stipend of Adam de Plomer, the Chantry Priest, who only gets 20s.

Decay of rents. A very striking feature of the period is the almost constant memoranda of "decay of rents," and it must also be noticed that the lease of land has become quite a normal feature of the manorial organisation, even small portions of the demesne land being let on lease.

Cheage. The profits and perquisites of the Courts brings in £62 17s. 7½d., and 25s. 6d. is paid in chevage by non-resident bondmen. Crops. The crops raised on the demesne come to 159 quarters, 4 bushels of barley and 21 quarters of oats, valued at 39s. 8½d., and 26 quarters of peas, valued at 8s. 8d. Particulars are given of the seed and beasts in store for the coming year, 6 quarters, 4 bushels of oats being purchased for 13s., and one ox for 13s. 5d., another for 16s., seven cows are bought for £3 13s. 7d., and 120 sheep for £7 10s. 0d., from John Willes of Massingham.

Fishponds and Dovehouse. The demesne had evidently been let down, for apart from the lease of part of the land already alluded to, the fishponds had ceased to be profitable (they had formerly rendered 5 marks), and the dovehouse was unstocked. On the other hand the sale of 824 rabbits brought in the enormous sum of £6 11s. 2½d., or 16s. a dozen paid to the lord for them by John de Reppes!

16. "In the manor of Fornsett in 1376-8, the shepherd's wages were 6s. 8d. yearly, ¼ of grain every ten weeks, and several bushels of oats for pottage." Davenport, *The Economic Development of a Norfolk Manor*, p. 50. During the same period, in the Manor of Wilburton, Cambs., the shepherd received 5s. and a quarter of corn during twelve weeks. See F. W. Maitland, *History of a Cambridgeshire Manor*.

Repair of the
Manor House

Visit of John
of Gaunt.

The Chantry.

The Manor House was often in need of repair, and these accounts furnish us with a detailed report of work done in 1391-2. They also give particulars of the preparations made for a visit from the lord, which become of double interest when one remembers that at this time he was no less a personage than John of Gaunt himself. It is not unlikely that he paid an annual visit to his Gimingham estate, where he was probably in part responsible for the building of the present Church, which still bears upon the corners of its square tower two small *royal* crowns, an allusion doubtless to his kingdom of Castile. He certainly founded the free Chantry of Gimingham in 1392 and endowed it with a messuage and 40 acres of land, valued at 7s. annually, formerly held by Isabel Gant.¹⁷ The Chantry priest was especially bound to sing Mass in the Chapel on the occasion of the annual visit of the Auditor.

I have said more than enough by way of introduction and shall now let the accounts speak for themselves:—

DUCHY OF LANCASTER. MINISTERS' ACCOUNTS.

Bundle 288. No. 4734.

A.D. 1391-1392.

GYMINGHAM. Account of William Warner, reeve there, Michaelmas 15 to Michaelmas 16 Richard II. (A.D. 1391-1392).

RENTS OF ASS-
SIZE WITH IN-
CREASE.

He renders account for £14 18s. 10d. of the rents of assize at the feast of St. Andrew, and of 3d. for half a pound of cummin; and £17 os. 4d. of the rents of assize at the Purification; and of £15 6s. 11½d. at Pentecost.

Rents for various houses in Crowmere.

½d. (?) of John, son of Adam Dolle, for a cottage and three perches of land in Gymyngham, whereof Is (Isabel?) Donne,¹⁸ bastard, died seized without heir of herself, and which came into the lord's hands as escheat.

 1d. of John, son of John atte Yate, for one messuage and eight acres of land in North

17. A curious similarity in name which suggests a possible relationship between the Duke and his late tenant.

18. See *post*, where the name is spelled Dam.

Reppes; $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. of John Saddyng for two acres and a half of free land in Southrepp; 2d. of John Pew for six acres and a half of land in Northreppes; $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of John Gees for certain free lands in Gymyngnam, Trunch and Moneslee, acquired of John del Medwe; $\frac{1}{4}$ d. of John Goodwyne, son and heir of Margery, for eight perches of free land in Gymyngnam; $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. of John de Yakesle for a certain void place ("*vacua placea*") in the market-place ("*foro*") of Trunch; $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. of new rent of John de London,¹⁹ for one piece of land in the market-place of Trunch, containing one perch, so leased, to the same and his heirs, by roll of the court of the term of Pentecoste, this year the 24th; $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of John Cove (Cone?), native of the lord, for one acre of free land in Northrepp; $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of Geoffrey Smith for one parcel of his land, enclosed, in Northreppes; 1d. of increased rent of William Aleyn, of Monesle, for two perches of land granted to him and his heirs, by roll of the court, this year is the third; $\frac{1}{4}$ d. of increased rent of Walter Gerveys, native of the lord, for three roods of land in Gymyngnam, by purchase of John Partryk and Isabel his wife, of the term of Michaelmas, by roll of the court of Gymyngnam, this year the second;

SALE OF WORKS
AND CUSTOMS.

And of 6d. from the sale of ricks ("*tass*") of turves and (?) "*tercidior*" in the marsh of Trunch; and 12d. from the custom of fish brought next Moneslee.

FARM OF THE
MILLS AND MAR-
KET.

30s. from the farm of the market of Trunch; £4 3s. 4d. from the farm of the water-mill of Gymyngnam, which was wont to render £4 6s. 8d.; 40s. for the farm of the windmill²⁰ of Trymyngnam, which was wont to render 50s.; 40s. for the farm of the mill of Southreppes, which was wont to

19. One wonders if John *de London* were a trader from beyond the manor confines who hired a plot of land in the Market Place, on which to erect a stall.

20. Windmills were then being used in addition to the more ancient Water-mills.

render yearly 66s. 8d.; 40s. for the farm of the wind-mill of Trunch.

Sale of corn
and malt.

Sale of stock.

Sale of wool
and skins.

HERBAGE AND
PASTURE WITH
THE AGISTMENT
IN THE PARK.

4s. from the wife of Thomas Smyth, of Trymyingham, for the farm of the herbage of Trymyinghamhegges, leased to her for twenty years, and this is the last year; 12d. of Edmund Colman for the farm of the herbage in the Little

[Lease of the Herbage
of the Little Park.]

Park, leased for twenty years, and this is the last year; 9d. from three roods of land let to farm in Sidestrond, of old time; 21s. (?) from divers parcels of herbage leased by the mower [messor] this year, as appears by a roll examined on the taking of this account, and they were wont to render 26s. 5d.; 2s. from the herbage of two acres of land formerly of Isabel (?) Oule in Gymyng- ham; nothing from the bond land, because it is charged below as appears by the court roll; nothing here from the agistment of the beasts next the meadow called Somerlesewe (*sewe*=meadow) because it was depas- tured by the lord's cows; nothing from the pasture called Langlound, because it was depastured by the sheep in the lord's fold, which was wont to render 3s. 4d.; 13s. 4d. of the farm of Kenyngeshegges,²¹ leased to John atte Wode this year, which was wont to render 30s.; 12s. of the farm of Trymynghamlound, leased to Clement Cordyng, William Palet, John Tramme, the elder, John Blacman, Warren Collard, Richard Belot, William Allyn, and others, the lord's tenants of Try- myingham, this year, by the auditors, for the term of

[Lease of Trymyngham-
lound for five years.]

21. Kenyngshegg was one of the subjects under dispute in a Duchy of Lancaster Cause, 10 James I., see *D. of L. Depositions*, 10 Jas. I., No. 55, Regina v. Gryme, reprinted in the "History of Sidestrond."

agistment of Beasts
the Park.]

foldage.]

Portions of the
demesne Land leased.]

Fugitive Bondman.]

five years, this year being the first, and it was wont to render 15s.; £11 12s. 8d. from the agistment of the beasts in the park, as well at the feast of St. Peter Ad Vincula as at the feast of St. Michael, as appears by a certain roll of particulars shown at the examination of this account; it was wont to render £12 10s. 7d.; nothing from the agistment of the beasts in Southwod,²² because it is depastured by the lord's wild creatures ("fer"), it was wont to render 18s.; nothing here from the feed of the lands lying sterile, because it is included in the lease by the lord's mower above-mentioned; 20s. 11d. received from one hundred and fifty-one sheep in the lord's fold at 1d a head; 8s. from the fern (bracken) in Southwood sold this year; 4s. from the same in Langlond; 3s. from the same in the park, and no more, because it was destroyed by the agistment of the beasts during the summer, owing to lack of herbage; '———, nothing from the farm of the "swetebusk"²³ in a certain place ("plac") of Mabel Wade, and a certain place late of Edith Howard, because it is above-charged in the parcel of land leased by the mower; 4s. from the farm of two acres of demesne land leased to Beatrice Forster; 4s. from the farm of two acres of demesne land leased to Thomas Collard; 6s. 10d. from the farm of a certain portion of herbage called Wellecroft, leased to Walter Gerneys (?Gerweys) for ten years, this being the fifth year; 3s. from the farm of half a rood of land at Fostere's Gate, leased to Thomas Collard; 6s. from the farm of a certain place called Aldres, leased to John Rust, and the lord has the underwood and the right to dig ("fodiac"); 2s. from the farm of a certain pasture called Gyneward, leased to Adam atte Hil; 4s. 6d. from the farm of a certain pasture called Lambertes-shirne, leased to John Roper; 12s. 6d. from the farm of the pool ("stagn") of Clappyng,²⁴ leased to Thomas Saundresson; 3d. from the farm of half an acre of land, late of William Thurkeld, the younger, bondman of the lord and a fugitive, leased to William Thurkeld, the elder; 3d. for seven perches of land which were of

22. Southwood became very debateable ground in the 17th century, as will be seen in a subsequent chapter.

23. "Busk" is given in Bailey's Dictionary as a kind of rush or bush.

24. The common watering-place of Clappyngs Dam is frequently mentioned in the rolls. It is now drained meadowland, but the road passing through it from Sidestrand to South Repps is still called Dams Lane.

[1 a. of Demesne
Land leased.]

Chantry.

John Sowtere, leased to Geoffrey Fuller, of Stalham by Geoffrey Foljambe, late chief steward; 12d. from the farm of half an acre of land called Crenell formerly of William atte Yate, which the Earl Warren alienated after the feofment of Thomas, Duke of Lancaster leased by Geoffrey Foljambe; 4s. 5d. from a certain pasture called Yolesheg in Sidestrond, leased to Roger Walsh by court roll; 19d. from the farm of one acre one rood and ten perches of land whereof John Wynter, a bastard, died seized, leased to Thomas Brice for his life; 2s. from the farm of one acre of demesne land opposite the messuage of William Freresman, leased to the said William, and Roger Scherberd; 4d. from the farm of two acres of land in Northreppes, which were formerly of William Deen and Lawrence atte Welle leased by court roll to John Gosloth, the elder, beyond service and customs; 12d. from the farm of a certain portion of pasture lying between Pikeneldam and the land formerly of Sir John de Reppes, knight, leased to William Warner; 10s. from the farm of one acre of land acquired by Thomas Toungate, by charter, as of the tenement of John Thurghard in Northreppes nothing from the farm of the lands and tenements late of Isabel Gant seized into the hands of the lord for certain causes, because the lord granted the said lands and tenements, together with the free chapel of the lord within the manor of Gymyngnam, with all rights and appurtenances whatsoever, to Adam Plomer, chaplain, for celebrating divine service continually within the said chapel; to hold during good pleasure and by sustaining and repairing the hall, kitchen and grange of the said tenements, by letters patent dated at Leicester 4 June 15 Richard II. (A.D. 1392), which were then wont to render 46s.; 2s. from the farm of two acres of land, parcel of one piece of land called Contyngeswong,²⁵ leased to Martin Skynner, by court roll; _____, 12d. from the farm of a certain pightell at Crenell, leased to Ralph Aleyn; _____

25. *Wong* = a field, more particularly a low-lying meadow or marsh. Halliwell gives its meaning as marsh, lowland, and also grove, meadow or plain. Bailey derives it from the Saxon. Sir Henry Spelman in *Glossarium Archaiologicum*, calls it "a feudal word" for a field, and instances "three acres of land lying in *lez wongs*," i.e. in ploughland, I think, rather than pasture."

_____, 6d. from the farm of one rood of land in Trunch, formerly of Agnes Pesacre, of the inheritance of Beatrice, wife of William Royes, leased to Thomas Brice by the year, until the aforesaid Agnes should come to heriot the said land, as appears by the court roll.

FARM OF THE
DAIRY ("day-
er").

ISSUES OF THE MANOR. 18d. of the old axle of the mill of Trymyngham, sold; 11d. of two hundred "blest"²⁶ sold at Aldres this year; nothing from "blest" sold at Langlound; nor at the [mill?] pool of Gymyngham; nor from hay; 2s. from the store (?) of fish sold, to wit, of the "tricur" of one man for two days; nothing from the sale of furze at Somerlesewe, nor at Southwod, nor in the park, this year; nothing from the issues of the dovecots, because they are not stocked, and they were wont to render 12s. 4d., by the year; nothing from the old hedges nor from the fishery sold²⁷ this year; 3s. 4d. received of straw sold for the beds of the lord's household; nothing from the fishery in the lord's pool in default of leasing ("conduct"), which was wont to render at farm five marks (?) before the time of the Duke of Gloucester; nothing from faggots this year; £6 11s. 2½d. from eight hundred and twenty-four rabbits taken, within the time of this account, within the lord's warren in divers places, by John Reppes, of Southreppes, and sold to the same at 16s. a hundred.

[Dovecotes no longer stocked.]

[Sale of Rabbits.]

ISSUES OF THE LANDS. 12d. from land in Hulver;²⁸ 3s. from two acres of land, which Nicholas Rug' purchased, by charter, of John Godfelagh, in Northreppes; 12d. from one acre of land which Edward Clerk, bondman of the lord, acquired in Southreppes.

26. I cannot find this word, probably some kind of grain.

27. Evidently means "let."

28. The small dependent manor of Hulver, in Antingham.

PERQUISITES OF COURT WITH CHEVAGE. £62 17s. 7½d. from the perquisites of eighteen courts and one leet of Gymyngham; _____ 8s. from the court at Crowmere; _____

_____ 25s. 6d. from chevage of divers bond tenants of the lord dwelling without the lordship (as appears) by court roll.

SUM OF THE RECEIPTS.....£259 5s. 10½d.

EXPENSES:—
RENTS RESOLUTE WITH DECAY OF RENT. Paid to the heir of Alan de Methe-wold for land bought of Isabel Oule in Sidestrond, 11d.; in decay of rent of the late Sir Robert de Reppes, knight, 8s.; in decay of rent of Wyschesdam coming from the mill of Herkenereyn into the hands of the said Sir Robert, by the gift of Earl Warren, 5s.; in decay of rent of Master William de Bekes in Northreppes, 16½d.; in decay of rent of Master John de Swathefeld, 10d.; in decay of rent of Master Wade in Northreppes, 4d.; in decay of rent of Robert Tebald in Northreppes, 4d.; in decay of rent of Nicholas de Toune in Northreppes, 3d.; in decay of rent of Adam Snakes in Gymyngham, 4d.; in decay of rent of John Spriggy, 4s.; _____ in allowance of rent of Alan Forthewald, bondman of the lord in Moneslee, to whom William Child, freedman, (*"manumissus"*), and his ancestors were wont to render it, which rent the lord now took of increase of rent of the same William 7d.; _____ in decay of the common aid for lands of William Child in Monesle, 21½d., and for the threshing and *"wynskot"* of the lands of the said William, 4½d.; in allowance of rent of Simon Plesaunt in Dallynges, 5s.; in allowance of rent of William Elwald in Northreppes, 5s.; in allowance of rent of Henry de Sidestrond in Sidestrond, 4d.; in allowance of rent of the parker, of old time [payable], 3s.; in allowance of rent of one messuage and forty acres of land, late of Isabel Gant, which the lord granted to Adam Plomer, chaplain of the chantry within the manor, 7s.; _____

(The Chantry Lands.)

[Allowances to Manorial Officers.]

ALLOWANCES. _____

[Autumn Works allowed to the wickeners.]

In allowance to one reeve, one mower (messor) one collector, four wickeners, to wit, of Gymyngham, Southreppes, Trunch and Monesle, for fifty-six autumn works,

without food, at 4s. 8d., to each of them eight works, price of a work, 1d.; [a similar entry follows]; in allowance of the lands of William Childe, of Monesle, for four parts [a quarter?] of one average,²⁹ 2½d. [Somewhat similar entries follow].

THE COST OF
THE PLOUGHS.

In two "kiplynes" bought for the ploughs, 5d.; in two pair of "stertwythes" [stercwythes?] bought, 2d.; in one broad iron plate bought for a plough, called a "ristplate," 15d.; in two pair of traces bought for the ploughs, 4d.; in four bridles bought, 3d.; in hides bought for mending the plough harness, 2d.; in two pair of "stertwithes," 3 "sulcokes," one "kiplyne," and one bridle, bought, 7½d.; in mending the heads of two ploughs, 5d.; on one ploughshare bought, 7d.; in two pair of traces, two bridles and one rope for mending the plough harness, 7d.; in one plough bought, 13d.; in one pair of wheels, 7d.; in one "coler" of hide bought, 8½d.; in three little plates of iron bought, 7½d.; in one sheaf (*sic, garba*) of "osemond" [iron] for mending the iron trappings of the plough, 10d.; in the placing of the same, 10d.; in 22 iron "sottes," 2s. 9d.; in blacksmith's work (*ferrura*), 1½d.; in twenty-five iron "remoc," 1½d.

THE COST OF
THE CARTS.

In one great rope bought for the cart, 8d.; in four iron "cloutes" bought for the carts, 6½d.; in rope bought for the ladder ("*scala*") of the cart, 1½d.; in three pounds and a half of grease bought for the wheels, 5d.; in two "kemeles" of iron bought, 2d.

THE COST OF
THE HOUSES.

In the fee of Henry Warner for making plaster for the cow house, for six days, 2s.; in the fee of Stephen atte Chirche and Roger his man, for the same work for six days, 4s.; in one hundred and fifty of "splentenail" for the same work, 4½d.; in one hundred "middelspikynges" bought, 3d.; in the fee of John atte Chirche for repairing the "mangoer" there, for two days, 8d.; in the fee of Stephen atte Chirche, Richard Magson and others, for plastering "le shepcote," for three days, 12d. each; in one hundred "sweyes" bought for

29. Work with a horse.

[Repairs of the Hall.]

thatching the west part of the hall, 4d.; in three hundred bindings ("*lig*") bought for the same, 9d.; in the fee of John Fox and his man, for thatching the said hall there, and the lord's great chamber, for twenty-one days, 15s. 9d.; in the fee of the said John and two men for copping ("*crest*") the said hall and chamber, for nine days, 19s. 9d.; in six cartloads of marl bought for the same, 9d.; in carriage of water for the same, 13d. in the fee of William Stub for decorating the end of the east wall of the hall ("*sublevant contractant et imigien piete orient ad poste*")³⁰ 5d.; in the fee of John atte Chirche for the same work, 4d.

THE COST OF THE WATER MILL OF GYMYNGHAM. In one inner iron cap ("*patell*" bought for the axle of the same mill weighing four pounds, 8d.; and in one outer, weighing eight pounds, 16d. in one "*spyndel*" and one iron "*kynde*" bought, 4s.; in one old wheel and one "*trendel*," and on "*trymay*" bought for the same, 4s.; in twelve woode "*wyndyngbondes*" for the said wheel, weighing seventeen pounds, 2s. 10d.; in two iron bindings bought for the said "*trendel*," weighing seven pounds and a half, 15d. in the fee of William Stub for binding the said wheel and "*trendel*," taking away one wheel and placing another, with the said "*trendel*," for two days and a half 12½d.; in the fee of Robert atte Grave and John atte Chirche, carpenters, for the same work, 10d.; in one "*goug*" of "*komes*" and sticks bought for the same 2s.; in the fee of William Stub in placing them, for one day 5d.; in the fee of John Fox and his man for repairing and thatching the mill house and coping the same house, for five days, 3s. 9d.; in drawing and carrying water for the same work, 3d.; in one hundred bindings bought, 1½d.; in "*broddes*" and "*splentes*" bought for the same, 1d.

Sum.....21s. 11d.

THE COST OF THE WINDMILL OF TRYMYNGHAM. In one outer iron cap, of twenty-two pounds, 3s. 8d.; in three "*clot splentes*" bought for the same mill 3d.

30. It is doubtful as to the exact meaning of each of these words, but the entry clearly relates to mural decoration at the east end of the hall.

COST OF THE
WINDMILL OF
SOUTHREPPES. In five "clothesplentes" bought, 5d.;
in one "goug" of sticks bought, 8d.;
in the fee of William Stub for placing
them, for one day, 5d.

COST OF THE
WINDMILL OF
TRUNCH. In the fee of William Stub for making
a new axle for the windmill of Trunch,
for twelve days, 5s.; in the fee of
John atte Chirche for the same work,
for eight days, 2s. 8d.; in the fee of
Geoffrey Thurghard for the same work, for two days,
10d.; in the fee of William Stub for making "lesalmes"
of the wheel, corbells for the "*melari*," and making two
new rods and "thurghschotes" and placing them, for
twelve days, 5s.; in the fee of John atte Chirche for
the same work, for thirteen days, 4s. 4d.; in eight
"clothesplentes" bought for the same, 8d.; in one "goug"
of sticks bought, 8d.; in the fee of William Stub for
making and placing them, for one day, 5d.; in two,
inner and outer, caps of iron, weighing forty-one pounds,
6s. 10d.; in renewing one "spyndel" and one iron
"rynde," 4s.; in the fee of Clement Kyng for making the
wall of the mill house, in all 12d.; in the expenses of
divers of the lord's tenants for placing the aforesaid
axle in the mill, 6d.; in divers nails bought for the
said mill, 13½d.

Sum.....33s.

NECESSARY EX-
PENSES. In two bushels of salt bought for the
food of the household, 14d.; one
spade bought, with the iron of the
same, 4½d.; in one basket bought for
carrying clothes ("*pall*"), 4d.; in one winnowing fan
bought for cleansing the lord's corn, 15d.; in one saw,
10d.; in three "alders" bought for coping the house,
3½d.

COST OF THE
FOLD. In one gallon of tar bought for washing
the sheep, 12d.; in one quart of vitriol
bought for the same, 3d.; in thirty-six
hurdles bought, 4s. 7d.; in one pound
and a half of "redynges" bought for marking the lord's
sheep; in herding ("*loc*") and shearing two hundred and
eight sheep, for every four, a penny, 4s. 4d.

SMALL CHARGES WITH THE KING'S TAX. In the fee of Roger Glover and Roger Madour for cutting and breaking wood and making sticks thereof for the hearth within the manor house, for four days, 2s. 8d.; in cutting the rushes in the lord's three fish pools (*vivar*), 16s.; in collecting the fines in court, in cleansing the "schepcote" and the grange before Autumn, in filling the carts and in sowing the field with corn, for purging the seed, for twenty-six winter works, and four summer works, 16d.; in the tax levied for the King, 11s.; in 1,000 barley straws bought for the lord's beasts, 4s. 2½d.; in one plank of poplar bought for mending a boat, 3d.; in nails for the same, 3d.; in the fee of Roger Madour, for repairing the said boat, for one day, 4d.; in one key bought for the house called "le Sanferie" (or ? "Sauserie"), not allowed for above in the cost of the houses, 2d.; in repairing the bolt of the door next the steward's chamber, 2d.; in repairing four locks, to wit, those of the cellar, the lord's chamber, the porter's chamber and the stable, 4d.

[Bond Services.]

[King's Tax.]

FOREIGN CHARGES. In cleansing the great hall, the lord's chamber, the lower chamber, the steward's chamber, the kitchen, the stable and other houses within the manor, before the arrival of the lord, for four-score summer works, 2s. 6d.; in the fee of two men for making faggots for the fuel of the household, one for seven days, beyond twenty days thereof paid by the officer of the lord's household, because the great part of the fuel remained in the manor, 2s. 4d.

[Preparing for a visit from the lord.]

FEES OF THE SERVANTS ("familiar"). In the stipend of two servants for ploughing and carting in autumn, by the year, 14s.; in the stipend of the lord's cow-herd, by the year, 3s. 6d.; in the stipend of one dairyman, by the year, 20d.; in the stipend of the barker [shepherd], 7s.

[Wages.]

THRASHING AND WINNOWER. In thrashing and winnowing one hundred and fifty-nine quarters, four bushels of barley and twenty-one quarters of oats, 39s. 8½d.; in thrashing and winnowing twenty-six quarters of peas, 8s. 8d.

MOWING HOEING.	AND	In mowing the 'meadow of Estcroft, to wit, for eighteen acres of land, with sowing ("spcoe") and making hay of the same, 12s.; in hoeing the lord's
{Summer works.}	corn in summer	by seventy-nine summer works, 3s. 10½d.
CORN BOUGHT.		In six quarters four bushels of oats bought, 13s.
STORE BOUGHT.		In one ox, 13s. 5d.; in one ox, 16s.; in one cow, 10s.; in one cow, 10s. 7d.; in two cows, 21s.; in three cows, 32s.; in one hundred and twenty sheep, bought of John Willes, of Massyngham, £7 10s. 0d.; and in expenses of two men driving the same sheep to Gymyngham, 2s.
COST OF THE PARK.		In the stipend of John atte Chirche, cutting down, barking and preparing the oaks in Castre for making park pales, and for "resewes" and pailers (" <i>stiperes</i> ") for the same work, for ten days, 3s. 4d.; in the stipend of John Deye for the same work, for eight days, 2s. 8d.; in the stipend of Roger Glover, for the same, for nine days, 3s.; in the stipend of John Powel, keeper of the park, for nailing up the pailing, for two days, 2d.; in the stipend of John Byteryng, another of the park keepers, for the same, 2d.; in the stipend of John Fox and his man in repairing and thatching "le logge," for the same, one day, 9d.; in the fee of John Stannard and his man, making a "hay" [hedge] there, for two days, 18d.; in the stipend of William Wrichte, for making a gate there, for two days, 8d.; in the stipend of Roger Glover, for the same, 8d.; in one "plat," one "coler," one "virolf," and one "go-geonu," bought for the said gate, weighing six pounds, 12d.; in a nail called "sherpyng," bought for the same, 3d.; in fifty "long-spikynges," 3d.; in the stipend of Stephen atte Chirche and John Annotesson (?) for cleansing and turning the watercourse in the park, for three days, 2s.
ENCLOSURES.		In the stipend of Henry Warner and Stephen atte Chirche in repairing the ditch next the garden from the south side of the great gates, for two days,

AN EAST ANGLIAN SOKE.

16d.; in the stipend of John Thurstan for making a wall from the gate of the park towards the chamber of the steward, in all, beyond the carriage of the water, 18s.; in the stipend of William de Thorp for the carriage of water for the same, for six days, 2s. 2d.; /—————, in eighteen ash planks bought, 20d.; in planing the same, 2d.; in the stipend of Henry Warner and Stephen atte Chirche for fixing ("plantant") the same in the court of the manor, for one day, 8d.; carting the same, 3s. 4d.

FEES AND WAGES. In the wages of Nicholas de Chambre, the lord's warrener, 30s. 4d.; /—————, Adam Plomer, chaplain, paid to him, by the year, as of right pertains to the free chapel within the manor of Gymyng-
ham, which the lord granted to the same Adam, with all its rights and appurtenances whatsoever, as appears by the letters patent of the lord, 20s.

COST OF THE AUTUMN WORKS. In mowing, gathering, binding and putting into cocks in the field, seventy-five acres and a half and half a rood of barley land, thirteen acres and three roods of pea land, thirty-four acres and a half of oat land, in all one hundred and twenty-four [*sic*, for twenty-three] acres and three roods and a half of land, by four hundred and ninety-six works, 41s. 4d.; in cutting, gathering, stacking and putting into cocks the peas, by forty works, 3s.; in carrying the aforesaid corn, by fourteen works, 6s. 6d.; in the hire of the aforesaid carts, of old time, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; in wages of one reeve and one mower, for four weeks, 6s.; in the wage of one mower in the autumn, 2s. /—————,

TITHE PAID. In tithe paid to the parsons of South-reppes and Gymyng-
ham, as of £11 12s. 8d. of the agistment of the park, 24s. 4d.; and in the tithe given in money for wool sold, 5s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

PAYMENT OF MONEY. /—————,

Sum total of expenses.....£252 14s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

(On the dorse.)

GYMYNGHAM.

Issues of the grange there from Michaelmas 15 Richard II. to Michaelmas 16 Richard II. (A.D. 1391-1392).

The same renders account of one hundred and fifty quarters and four bushels of barley of issues of the grange, level measure ("*rasa mensura*"), by tally, against Clement Trunch, reeve in the preceding year; and of nine quarters of "smalcorn" and "corall" of the same; and of seven quarters and four bushels of oats ("*avauntage*") of the same; and of two quarters and five bushels of barley from the farm of the land in Swathefeld, so leased to Nicholas Strut for the term of five years; and of four bushels of barley from the farm of two acres of land in Southreppes, late of John atte Yate, felon; and of two bushels of barley from the farm of Roger Glovere for one rood and a half of land in Trunch, leased for his life, this being the twentieth year; _____, and of one bushel of barley from the issues of one rood of land, whereof Emma atte Dam (?), a bastard, died seized; and of two bushels of corn from the issues of half an acre of land, with one pightell, of which Katherine de Causton died seized.

Sum.....195 quarters and 2 bushels

Of which in seed upon seventy-five acres and a half and half a rood of land, whereof eighteen acres and three roods lie at Scherwyk Wong, ten acres at the gate of the manor, five acres and thirty perches at Curlescroft, five acres and thirty perches at the gate of Margaret atte Boure, five acres and one rood at Millewong, eight acres and a half at Hangandewong, ten acres at Contyngeswong, and twelve acres and three woords at Benemere; _____,

Customary brewing.]

Additional payment in
ind to the servants.]
see p. 156.

Hens as rent.]

in malt made by custom ("*ex costuma*"), forty-three quarters; in payment of servants, as appears below, twenty-three quarters and half a bushel; in "*sarcinatione*" the seed, two quarters and one bushel; in delivery at oat harvest (?) for provender, as (appears) below; and in delivery to the lord's tenants who brought fowls, by way of rent ("*qui ferunt pulciu de reddit*"). _____

PEAS.

And of twenty-six quarters of peas issued by tally against the aforesaid Clement;³¹ and of one quarter and two bushels of oats ("avauntage") of the same; and he does not answer for more of the issues here on account of the destruction made by the wild creatures this year.

Of which (expended) in seed upon thirteen acres and three roods of land, whereof eight acres and a half are below the park, and five acres at Kirkeyate (?); in the food for the household, three bushels. /_____

OATS.

And of thirty-one quarters of oats issued by tally against the aforesaid Clement;³² /_____, and of two quarters of oats of rent in Paston and Sidestronð; /_____, and of six bushels of oats spent, in sheaves, by estimation, for the sustenance of divers cows in winter, being sick, /_____.

Sum.....52 quarters and 1 bushel.

Of which in seed upon thirty-four acres and a half of land, whereof eighteen acres and a half are at Southwood, sixteen acres below the park, (and) twenty-five quarters, seven bushels, to the acre six bushels; in food of the household, one quarter; in provender for the lord's oxen, four quarters; in the keep of the cows which were sick, six bushels; in the provender of one horse of the lord left there, one quarter.

DELIVERY TO And of twenty-three quarters and half
THE HOUSEHOLD a bushel of barley for the household
SERVANTS. servants.

Of which in the delivery to two servants for ploughing and carting and for autumn works, by the year ten quarters and three bushels; in delivery to one dairyman, by the year, three quarters and two bushels; in delivery to one cowherd, by the year, four quarters and two bushels; in delivery to one barker, for keeping the lord's fold, five quarters and one bushel and a half.

31. De xxvj qar pis de ex pe tat conr pdcm Clem.

32. See previous footnote.

MALT.	And of sixty-three quarters of malt made by the lord's tenants by custom.	
ACCOUNT OF STOCK.	Oxen 4, newly-bought 2.....	6
	of which one was sold.....	1
	one weak one, broken-winded ("tubia fracta")	1 2
		—
	And there remain	4
Bulls.	Three	
	And there remain.....	3
Cows.	30, newly-bought 7.....	37
	Of which 2 died and 5 were sold	7
		—
	And there remain	30
Calves.	Nothing from the issues of the calves this year, because the cows being with calf were sent out to farm.	
Hides.	Of two hides from the cows which died, sum	2
Sheep.	216, newly-bought 120, sum ...	336
	Of which 8 died before this account and 9 after; sold 80...	97
		—
	And there remain	239
Skins, wool and fur (?) ("pellect.")	Of the 8 sheep which died, 8 skins. and of the 9 sheep which died, 9 skins.	
Fleeces.	Of the 208 sheep above (mentioned) shorn of all the fleece, which weighed twenty-four stone, six pounds.	
Swans.	Two.	
Cygnets.	Two.	
Fagots.	None sold this year.	
Reeds.	1,850 prepared ("factura") this year. Of which 850 were used for thatch.	

COURT ROLLS. The earliest Gimingham Court Roll in the Record Office³³ is only a year or two later in date than the 1391-2 Account Roll which we have been examining, so it may well come here as its sequence and completion. It is for 20 Richard II. (1396-7), the first Court being held on Monday the feast of St. Gregory the Pope. The first membrane begins with a list of the parties to various pleas and trespasses, the names including William, parson of the Church of Southfeld (Suffield), John Hornyngtoft and Nicholas Cromme. Then follow typical entries relating to quarrels, surrenders of land, fines for license to enclose and many other matters, the nature of which can best be gathered from the following extracts:—

Inquiry ordered as to whether Thomas Clerk assaulted and wounded Clement atte Newhous, to the damage of 40s.

[Enclosure.]

Robert Calk gives to the lord a fine for two bounds to be placed between him and the highway in Paston. [No land could be enclosed without payment to, and consent of the lord].

William Her' surrendered into the lord's hands, by the hands of Warin Kyng, in the presence of William Richeman, Richard de Causton and other tenants of the lord, three acres and three roods of land, with one house built thereon in Paston, to the use of John Horyngtoft and his heirs; to hold at the will of the lord, by service and custom, etc. [All land transactions had to take place in the Manor Court. A tenant desiring to hand over his tenement to another had to surrender it to the lord, who in his turn regranted it to the new tenant].

John de Estgate and Maud his wife (examined in court), surrendered into the hands of the lord, half a rood of land in Southreppes, to the use of Margaret Gibbes and her heirs; to hold at the will of the lord, by service and custom, etc.

William Grey surrendered into the hands of the lord, by the hands of Nicholas atte Yate, in the presence of John Pays, the elder, Clement Dobbesson, and other tenants of the lord, one rood of land, with a cottage, and half an acre of meadow in Trunch, to the use of

33. P.R.O. Court Rolls, 103, 1412.

William Palet and his heirs; to hold at the will of the lord, by service and custom, etc.

The jury present that:—

Alice, wife of Richard Powel, died seized of seven acres and one rood of land, with one cottage, one acre, three roods of heath and three roods of meadow in Paston, and that Clement, her son, is her next heir and is of full age. [On the death of a tenant the heir had to surrender the holding to the lord, who regranted it to him on payment of a "*heriot*." An heir omitting this formality on the death of a relative was liable to a fine].

[Omission of bond-services.]

Bartholomew Fysi (?) and Hugh Fraunceys did not come to plough the land of the lord as they were commanded.

William Yattes (?) beat Margery, wife of John Tramme, the younger, bondman of the lord, against the peace.

[Assaults.]

John Clerk, of Cronmere, beat William Mannyng, the Lord's "wikener," against the peace, wherefore he is in mercy.

[Fugitive Bondman.]

John Lacebon led away Clement Blast, the lord's bondman, out of the lord's lordship, without licence, to the prejudice of the lord's lordship; wherefore he is in mercy.

Nicholas atte Bek made a rescue (from the lord's wikener of Moneslee) of one horse taken in execution.

Cecily Cary sold to John Aldyn three roods of "selond" and half a rood of heath in Trunch, without licence.

William Pynnynd gave the lord a fine to have an inquiry between him and Edward Arneshyl, etc.

Richard Pawyl surrendered into the lord's hands one acre of land in Trunch, to the use of Thomas Smyth and his heirs; to hold at the will of the lord.

Fine received from the moiety of the house of Idekilder in Paston for not doing suit of court. [N.B. It is the tenement and not the individual that is liable to fine both here, and in later rolls].

[Enclosure.]

Walter,³⁴ parson of the church of Gymmingham, gives to the lord a fine for two bounds to be placed between him and Stephen atte Chirche in Trunch.

34. Walter Wynter was rector of Gimingham about the year 1386.

GYMYNGHAM. Court held there on Tuesday next before the feast of St. Ambrose 20 Richard II. (A.D. 1397).

m. 1d.

Several pleas of debt and trespass; among the names of plaintiffs and defendants are the following:—

John Botild,
William Tucke,
Bartholomew Calk.
Thomas atte Heath,
Stephen Inte Wode,
John Kynge, chaplain of Trunch.

Elen Bavyn surrendered into the lord's hands, by the hands of Roger Dawe, in the presence of Adam Dawe and Roger Rust and other tenants of the lord, half an acre of heath in Sistrond, to the use of Bartholomew Qweyntine and . . . his wife, and their heirs; to hold at the will of the lord, by service and custom, etc.

William Helicent (?) surrendered into the hands of the lord one rood and a half of land lying in the Southfeld³⁵ of Trunch, to the use of Nicholas atte Heyth, his wife, and their heirs; to hold at the will of the lord, by service and custom, etc.

[Lease.]

John Smyth, of Trunch, gives to the lord a fine for having the term of four years, in three roods of land in Trunch, by lease from William de Helicent, from the feast of St. Michael last past.

The jury present that:—

Alice, late wife of Richard Powel, died seized of eight acres and one rood, with a cottage; one acre and three roods of heath; and three roods of meadow in Paston; and one acre of land in Knapton; and two acres, one rood and a half of land in Trunch. Clement, her son and next heir, is of full age and is admitted and gives a heriot, valued at 26s. 9d.

Richard Barber gives to the lord a fine for having an inquisition of a certain way, which the pledges of Northreppes claim to have, through the messuage of the

35. In the open-field system the usual custom was to divide the land around the village into three large fields composed of many strips. They were frequently called by such names as Southfield, Northfield, etc., according to their position with regard to the village.

same Richard; wherefore it is ordered that an inquisition be made by good and discreet men of the whole soke of Gymingham.

John atte Wode, the younger, surrendered into the lord's hands, by the hands of William Mannyng, in the presence of Thomas Saundresson, Bartholomew Qweyntine, and other the lord's tenants, one acre of heath in Northreppes, to the use of William Powell and his heirs; to hold at the will of the lord, etc.

The jury present that:—

[Poaching.]

John Clere (Clerc?) came within the lord's lordship to hunt within the lord's warren and killed a hare.

John de Southgate, Agnes his wife, William atte Heath, Margery Basse and Ralph Aleyn, have made waste in the lord's wood of Southwode by carrying away wood, etc.

John Dobbesson and Adam Woderowe sold to Richard Powel, a bondman of the lord, one rood of land, held freely by charter there; it is ordered that it be seized.

John Child, reeve of the manor, has not entered (*entravit*) the lord's reed-bed after the reeds were cut; on account of which default the said reeds were destroyed, to the great damage of the lord.

[Unauthorized
Enclosure.]

John Rust, of Southreppes, made anew one enclosure within the common of Southreppes, to the great damage of the lord.

John Childe, reeve of the manor, concealed divers articles touching his office.

John Madour, keeper of the lord's park, has not executed his office. [Was this the same John Madour, of Southreppes, who was a "coadjutor and counsellor of Geoffrey Lyster" and one of those who wrecked the Manor of Gimingham in 1381? See p. 110.]

The chief pledges of Trunch fined for concealing and not presenting the withdrawal of divers metes and bounds between divers parties, to the prejudice of the lord's lordship.

GYMYNGHAM. Court held there on Monday before the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 21 Richard II. (A.D. 1397).

m. 2.

Several pleas of debt, trespass, etc., among the names of plaintiffs and defendants appear the following:—

Nicholas Rugg,
Thomas de Calthorp,
John Hunstan,
Richard, parson of the church of Sistrond.³⁶
John Garlek,
John, parson of the church of Antyngham.³⁷

[Enclosure.]

John Pamme gave to the lord a fine for two bounds to be placed between him and Clement Jerveys in Gy-myngham; therefore the chief pledges of Gy-myngham are to place them.

[Enclosure.]

William Carte gave the lord a fine for a bound to be placed between him and William Kevyt in South-reppes.

GYMYNGHAM. Court held there on Wednesday next before the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the same year (A.D. 1397).

m. 2d.

John Dobbisson and Helvis his wife (examined in court) surrendered into the lord's hands, three roods of "feldlond" in Northreppes, to the use of Thomas March and his heirs; to hold at the will of the lord, by service and custom, etc.

John Tramme, the younger, surrendered into the lord's hands, one rood of "selond" and "feldlond," to wit, thirty perches of "selond" and ten perches of "feldlond" in divers pieces in Trunch, to the use of John Garlek and his heirs, etc.

The jury present that:—

[Poaching.]

John Pokoc, parson of the church of Antyngham, Thomas Colman and John Ket,³⁸ took rabbits in the lord's warren in Antyngham.

36. Richard Munden, appointed rector by the Duke of Lancaster, 1391.

37. John Pecoek, appointed rector in mediety of Antingham St. Mary, by Nicholas de Wychingham, 1395. For his poaching offences see the next page.

38. Possibly an ancestor of a more famous lawbreaker of the same name.

John Aleyn presented because he did not appear against Richard, parson of the Church of Sistrond.

The jury present that:—

Simon Jonesson broke into the lord's park and took away one horse imparked there.

John Deye made waste in the lord's corn with cows and geese, to the damage [etc].

The jury have a day to the next court to enquire and certify concerning those who broke into the lord's park, and concerning those who killed one doe, and likewise to enquire concerning wreck of the sea next the sea shore (*litus maris*) at Monesle, and to enquire as to the hare killed within the lord's warren.

John Garlek and Margery his wife came into court and put in a claim to have half an acre of bond land in Trunch (which John Tramme purchased from John Aleyn at the preceding court) as the next of the blood of the aforesaid John Aleyn on the side of the aforesaid Margery, according to the custom of the manor. John Tramme is unable to say anything against this, and the said John Garlek and Margery are admitted to the said land.

There is necessarily a great similarity in the subsequent Account Rolls, and it would be impossible to give extracts from all of them, but before leaving this class of document I should like to give a few details of that for 1414-5.³⁹ In it we find very many surnames which are still common in the district, and others, which though extinct now, appear with regular frequency in the rolls of the manor. Amongst those paying rent to Adam Hornyngtoft, the reeve, are [in Gimingham] John Gees, Christiana, daughter of Robert Stannard, Walter Gerveys, Richard Powell, John Spencer, "chaplain of Gytingham"; [in North Repps] Batholomew Queyntment and Beatrice his wife, John Neve the younger "botcher"; [in South Repps] John Suddyng, Roger Medour; [in Trunch] John de Yakesley, "for a certain void place in the market place of Trunch"; [in Trimmingham] Adam atte Hill, [in Mundesley] William Aleyn, Simon Colynson, [in Sidestrand] Roger Walshe, "for one doveote." This last entry is interesting from the

39. *D. of L. Ministers' Accounts*, 290/4768.

fact that the dovecote in question, or its successor, is still in use at Sidestrand Hall. It is a square cote built of flint and brick, with endless pigeon-holes inside it, and it has hitherto seemed difficult to account for its presence upon an *unmanorial* estate. A dovecote was essentially a manorial appendage, and this and subsequent entries show that Roger Walshe and his successors paid rent for permission to have a dovecote on their land notwithstanding the fact that it was not a manor.

By 1414 the demesne lands had been farmed out to Walter Gerveys and Martin Skynner at a rent of £31, the lands including "one meadow lying between the water mill of Gymyngham and the rectory there." At the present day a meadow in exactly that position is still called "Lord's Meadow."

Not only were the demesne lands let on lease, but the smaller buildings of the Manor House also came into the hands of tenants. For instance, we get an entry "3/4d. farm of the dovecote, with the enclosure adjoining called Dufhousyerde."

In the course of this year the windmill at Trunch came to grief. "26/8 from the old wood of the wind mill of Trunch, blown down by a great storm." This meant an annual loss of rent to the manor, as did the next entry. "25/- for one messuage in Gymyngham, coming into the hands of the lord the King, by the felony of John Hunt, who was outlawed, nothing this year because they were granted by the Lord the King to Robert Quixley, for the term of his life, without rendering anything therefor." Quixley at this time was also farmer "of the rabbits within the warren."

Another cause of the depreciation of the value of the manor of Gimingham was the constant encroachment of the sea. Then, as now, the sea was always eating away the coast line, and there are numerous allowances of rent for land lost in the sea. In the 1414 roll is the following one:—

ALLOWANCE OF
THE RENT OF
LANDS THROWN
INTO THE SEA,
PUT IN RESPITE
BY LETTERS OF
WARRANT.

In allowance of the rent of lands and tenements, of the bond tenants of the lord the King, within the lordship there, to wit in the vills of Gymyng- ham, Trymyngham, Sydestrond, Moun- eslee and Paston, which were by mis- fortune thrown into the sea, as appears by the inquisition of the neighbours and a measurement made by Nicholas de Wychyngham, late steward, Thomas Somercotes, auditor, and Edmund Oldhalle, receiver there, by virtue of letters of warrant of the lord the King, sent under seal to the council of the lord the King of his Duchy of Lancaster, by virtue of the aforesaid letters, £11 12s. 5d.; which lands are respited to the said tenant, until the lord the King shall be otherwise informed, and until the aforesaid steward, auditor, and receiver, should otherwise order: so respited by virtue of another letter of the lord the King, of warrant, dated at West- minster 22 November 5 Henry IV. (A.D. 1403).

Each Account Roll shows a diminution in the profits of the manor, and the total receipt for 1414-5 was £248 2s. 8½d., as against £259 5s. 10¼d., in 1391-2. The leasing of the demesne lands was one method of raising revenue, for since the lord himself no longer lived and subsisted on the land, a money income was of far greater value to him. Professor Vinogradoff describes this process at an even earlier date as a movement "from *natural husbandry* to the *money system*."⁴⁰ But even with the lord's revenue from rent the advantage continued to lie with the tenants, for the rents remained fixed at their customary amounts whilst the purchasing power of money steadily decreased, as it has gone on doing to the present day. "Just because money rents displaced the ploughings and reapings very gradually, they assumed the most important characteristic of these latter—their customary uniformity; tradition kept them at a certain level which it was very difficult to disturb, even when the interests of the lord and the conditions of the time had altered a great deal. Prices fluctuate and rise gradually, the buying strength of money gets lowered little by little, but customary rents remain much

40. *Villainage in England*, p. 180.

the same as they were before. Thus in process of time the balance gets altered for the benefit of the rent payer."⁴¹

Shortage of bond labour was the chief cause for these changes in the life of the manor, but absenteeism was at any rate a contributory cause of the leasing of the demesne lands and buildings, and the decay of manorial institutions. By degrees the lord had come to consider his manor as a source of income, and not as a more or less self-supporting residential demesne. In the case of Gimingham this is particularly noticeable, for even in the days of the de Warennes, the earls evidently did not reside here frequently, for we know that Castleacre was their favourite Norfolk manor, whilst the Castle of Lewes was the principal stronghold of the family. We have seen already that their successor, John of Gaunt, did indeed visit his manor of Gimingham, but it was very unlikely that his son, who had become Henry IV. of England, should think of journeying to so remote a possession of his Duchy of Lancaster.⁴² This being the case it was only natural that the demesne lands should be let on lease, whilst the Manor House and its surroundings was allowed to fall more and more into decay. There were no longer sufficient bondmen to cultivate the demesne lands with their customary services, and both land and house soon became very much what they are now, a farm in the modern sense of the word, leased to several tenants, with the farm-house and premises on the site of the Manor House. But this only happened by degrees. In 1414 an attempt was still made to keep up the more important buildings and apartments, the lesser ones being already let out to the tenants of the demesne land. Repairs to the Great Hall are a constant source of expenditure from the 15th to the 17th century, and in the latter period we find endless complaints made before the Duchy Court as to the ruinous

41. *Ibid.*, p. 181.

42. The castles and manors of the Duchy of Lancaster must have needed constant attention, and on 24th Nov., 1402, a commission is directed to Edmund Holdhalle (the receiver for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge), and to Clement Trunche (no doubt a native of the Soke) "to take stonecutters, carpenters, and other labourers for the repair of the king's castles and manors of the Duchy of Lancaster in the county of Norfolk, and timber and stone and carriage for the same and other necessities."—*Pat. Roll Cal.*, 4 Henry IV., pt. 1, m. 17.

condition of the "Scite of the Manor." In 1414-5 we get the following details of expenditure:

COST OF THE HOUSES WITHIN THE MANOR.	"Paid to John Reder and his servant, for roofing and placing reeds upon the great hall, within the manor there, for forty-five days, 36s. 6d.; paid for nine hundred "byndynges" bought this year, for the same work, 22½d.; paid for four hundred "spryngeles" bought for the same work, 8d.; paid Wryght, the carpenter, and his servant, for mending and making "les gystes" of the prison, within the manor there, for seventeen days, 12s. 9d.; paid for one plumber for plumbing the houses and gutters of the same with lead, 6s. 4d.; paid for "lednayll" bought for the same work, 8d.; paid to William Wright and his servant for cutting down timber for the said house, 9d.; for the carriage of the same from Southwod to the manor, 16d.; paid to Thomas Reder and his servant for covering and placing reeds upon "le heyechambrè" and upon "le longchambre," for forty-two days, 35s.; one thousand two hundred "byndynges" for the same, 2s. 6d.; four hundred "spryngeles" for same, 16d.; paid for two great iron staples for the gate of the chamber, weighing four pounds, 8d.; paid for one lock with a key bought for the gate of the stable, 3d.; one man hired for mowing and cutting all the reeds within "le Dam," this year, for thatching the houses within the manor, 19s.; for the carriage of the same from "le Dam" to the manor, for three days, 4s.; for one lock, with a key, bought for the gate of the hay house, within the manor, 3d."
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But though the lord no longer visited his manor in person, an annual tour of inspection was made by his Chief Steward with the Auditor, to audit the accounts and to see that the manor was being properly managed. In the 1414-5 Account we read, "in the fee of William Wryght and his servant, for cutting down fuel, against the coming of the chief steward, auditor and other ministers of the king [Henry V.], six days, 3s. 6d., and in one cart hired to carry the said fuel from Southwod to the manor, six days, 13s."

The Accounts for 1414-5 conclude with the Chantry account of William Ussher, Chaplain, which will be found in another chapter.

RECEIVER'S
ACCOUNTS.

We may turn now to yet another type of manor record, the Receiver's Accounts. After the Wickners had made their reckoning with the Hayward and Reeve, the Reeve in his turn had to hand over his account to the Auditor and Receiver, who were responsible to the lord for all his manors in a particular district. The following example dated 2-3 Henry V. from Lord Suffolk's muniments is of special interest since it includes in its payments an annuity to the famous Sir Thomas Erpingham. The Receiver's Rolls contain the accounts of all the manors for which the Receiver was responsible, and a few extracts relating to Gimingham will show the stuff of which they are made.

THE ACCOUNT OF EDMUND OLDHALLE,
Receiver of the money of the lord the King for his Duchy of Lancaster in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge, from the feast of St. Michael in the second year of King Henry V. to the feast of St. Michael then next following in the third year of the same king for one whole year.

[Receipts.]

Arrearage.

The same answers for £23 6s. 8d. of arrearage of his last account of the year next preceding as appears in the foot there. (*sic.*)

Total £23 6s. 8d.

Gymyngham.

Of Bartholomew Kyng reeve there in the 13th year of King Henry IV. for his arrearages for all money allowed to him for the repair of the chantry there in the same year, of money of the lord the King, upon the (?) account as in the foot of the account of the reeve there for the year preceeding.

12s. 5d.

Of Adam Hornyngtoft reeve of Gymyngham by the hands of the farmer of the demesne lands, of his farm for the same year.

£31.

Of the same Adam, the reeve there of the issues of his office for the same year, by seven indentures beyond the aforesaid £31.

£124.

Of the same Adam, the reeve there of the like issues of his office upon the account without indenture.

£29 5s. 8½d.

Total £184 18s. 1¾d.

(Payments.)

Annuities to Sir
Thomas Erpingham.

—, And in a certain annuity of £46 13s. 4d. by the year granted by the lord the King to Thomas Erpyng-
ham, knight, yearly receivable for the term of his life from? the manor of Gymyngham by the hands of the receiver, farmer, reeve or bailiff there for the time being at the terms of Easter and Michaelmas, *beyond* [*ultra*] the hundred of Southerpyngham granted to him, for the term of his life, as for the term of Easter within the time of the account, provided always that the same Thomas with no other be retained, by a letter of the lord the King of warrant given at Westminster on the 15th day of November in the first year aforesaid remaining amongst the warrants of the same year as above; and the acquittance of the same Thomas remains among the warrants there of this year.

£23 6s. 8d.

And to the same Thomas Erpingham as for the term of Michaelmas within the time of the account—by his acquittance remaining as above.

£23 6s. 8d.

The Court Rolls for 2-3 Edward IV. seem to have disappeared,⁴³ but a five year lease of the demesne lands and of most of the manor buildings in 1462 is still extant.⁴⁴ This document is a "copy of Court Roll," and is of especial interest as it shows that the bond labour of the tenants was leased with the demesne lands, "all

43. They may very possibly be hidden away amongst the unsorted Rolls at Gunton.

44. *D. of L. Miscellaneous Books*, No. 73, fol. 193d.

mowings of pastures and hoeings of the corn, with all other autumn works," being included, to say nothing of the boon days called *Halmeres and Lamicotcs*.⁴⁵ Foldage was likewise included in the lease, which was, in fact, a grant not only of the demesne lands but also of the personal manorial rights of the lord as well. The rent seems a high one, twenty-four and twenty-five pounds of silver, and the obligation to find hay and straw for the horses of the lord, his council or his steward when visiting the manor; a stable and hay house being excluded in the lease of the premises for the use of the lord and his deputies. The tenants include the rector of the parish, Robert Cantell *clerk*, (rector of Gimingham 1454 and 1480, and rector of Trunch 1438 to 1480), who is buried in the Chancel of Trunch Church.

(A.D. 1462.) "At a court held at Gymyngham on Thursday next after Easter, 2 Edward IV. (A.D. 1462), the Lord by Thomas Grys, his steward, granted and to farm let to John Jekell⁴⁶ of Gymyngham, William Wortes,⁴⁷ Robert Cantell, clerk, John Payne, John Willyamson, William Miller, John Gogull the younger and John Gogull the elder, and their assigns, a parcel of the manor of Gymyngham with all those houses, granges and stables lying on the east side of the manor there, together with all the demesne lands belonging to the said manor and with one garden lying next the chapel there, and also a certain dovehouse, with a certain enclosure called the Doushouszerd, and also one meadow lying next the water mill of Gymyngham, and twenty-six and a half acres of pasture called Somerlesewe, and all other mowings of pastures and hoeings of the corn, and all other autumn works; and with the boon-days called *Halmeres and Lamicotcs*, and also the foldage for the sheep of

45. *Boon-day*, an extra day's work done by the bondman for his lord in return for a day's food. Occasionally it is called *bean-day*, whence *bean feast*.

"Very common is the practice of providing a meal for the labourers on the boon-days, the days on which the whole population of the village had to work for the Lord in the most busy time of the summer and autumn. Such boon-work was considered as a kind of surplus demand; it exceeded the normal distribution of work. It is often mentioned accordingly that such service is performed out of affection for the Lord, and sometimes it gets the eloquent name of 'love-bene'!"—Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 174. See *post*, Part II., Chapter IV.

46. John Jekell, free tenant of the manor in the Rental of 2 Richard II.

47. William Wortes, bond tenant in the Rental, 2 Richard II.

the tenant of the lords there, to the said demesne lands belonging, except the stable with one house for hay to be placed there for the lord, his council, or his steward, or the deputy of the same steward whenever and as often as they should come to the said manor. To have and to hold the aforesaid parcel of the manor, with the lands aforesaid, to the before named John Jekell and others (except as excepted) from Michaelmas last past for a full term of five years, paying therefor yearly to the lord, in the first year of their farm at Michaelmas next after the date of this court twelve pounds of silver, and in the year next following they shall pay to the said lord or his certain attornies twenty-four pounds of silver in the manner and form following, namely, at Michaelmas 1464 twelve pounds of silver and at Easter next following twelve pounds of silver; and in the third year then immediately next following the said farmers shall pay to the lord or his attornies twenty-five pounds at Michaelmas and Easter by equal portions, and so from year to year in the two years following the said farmers shall yearly pay to the said lord or his attornies at Michaelmas and Easter by equal portions, twenty-five pounds of silver, during the term aforesaid. And also the said farmers shall find for the said lord and his council or his steward, as often as he shall come to the said manor, sufficient hay and straw for their horses. And moreover the lord by his steward granted to the same farmers yearly during their term six cartloads of underwood to be delivered to them. And in case the said farm should be in arrear in part or in the whole," etc., etc.

A RENTAL OF THE MANOR, 2 RICHARD III.¹

The Court and Account Rolls give us a good many details of manorial life in the Soke of Gimmingham, but before going on to those of a later date it is worth while supplementing them with the following full Rental of the Manor of the year 1485 which will help us to a better understanding of the later rolls. Unfortunately it is not the original draft of the document, but a copy made from it in Tudor times, when the scribe evidently understood very little of what he was transcribing. His MS. consists of 29 folios roughly bound in a page of an illuminated Antiphoner. It is a Rental of the *Manor only*, not of the whole Soke, and practically all the tenements enumerated in it were situated within the parish of Gimmingham.² It contains particulars of five free tenements and of ninety bond tenements, with an acreage of 132a. 3r. 30p. of free land,³ and 444a. 1r. 12½p. of bond land, making a total of 577a. 1r. 2½p. Although the free land was held by seventeen tenants only three of these were *free and frank*, viz., Robert Repon, Elizabeth Madour and John Jekyll (lessee of part of the demesne lands in 1462). The others were all native tenants and by their bondage they *soiled* their free holdings. There were seventy-seven tenants of the bond land, of these, however, some may be accounted copyholders, since they paid rent for their bond holdings and did no services for them.⁴ The tenant of the largest acreage was John Ressham (or? Reffham), who appears to have held 76 acres,⁵ of which 54 acres were free and 22 acres were bond land. Next to him in amount came Walter Sparke with an entirely bond holding of 51a. 1r. 16½p., and Edmund Pounder with 45a. or. 20p. of bond and 1a. of free land.

Only four of the tenants seem actually to have held the typical virgate of 20 to 30 acres, viz., Thomas Garlek, 31a. 2r. 30p. (all

1. *D. of L. Rentals and Surveys*, 7/26.

2. The only exceptions are Mundesley and Paston, House of Attehill; Trimmingham, Tenement of Chelsy; Trunch, House of Gryme.

3. Possibly representing the two carucates of Ratho, the Freeman, in Domesday Book.

4. Copyhold is "mostly a rent-paying servile-tenure."—Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 310.

5. The acreage of Ressham's *free* holding is illegible, but 54 a. are required to make up the total of free land as given in the Rental, so presumably his holding was of that amount. I fancy that this surname may be Reffham, in which case it probably comes from "Raffman," defined by Mr. Rye as "a kind of grocer."



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map, with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

bond except 1a.), John Benyngton, 31a. 1r. 10p. (all bond), Adam Martyn, 21a. 3r. 20p. (all bond), and John Jarveys, 21a. or. 33p. (of which 1a. or. 30p. was free). On the other hand, there are no less than fifteen houses or tenements described in the Rental whose acreages range from 20a. to 36a. 3r. 32½p. showing that the original holdings were more closely allied to the orthodox virgate.⁶ It is well to remember in this connection that "the whole arrangement of a manorial survey is constructed with the holding as its basis." The smallest holdings amounted to no more than a rood. The lord held in his own lands 21a. or. 10p.

An enormous percentage of the acreage of the tenements had been swallowed up by the sea at the date of the Rental, no less than 2a. 2r. 0p. of free land, and 140a. 2r. 34p. of bond land being described therein as "in the sea." Since then a very large amount of land on the coast line of the Soke of Gimmingham has shared its fate.

The Rental gives detailed particulars of each "House," its rent, bond services, etc., its tenants and the names of their holdings of land. The bond services of the tenements were mostly modelled upon those attached to the House of Gothemond. They do not appear to have been very grievous, and several of the smaller tenements were entirely free from them and merely paid a money rent. Bond works still survived at the end of the 15th century, but they were being largely commuted for payments in money, an arrangement which suited alike both lord and tenant. The *Lancetti*⁷ form a special group of bond tenants, who, in the Manor of Gimmingham at any rate, appear to have been more heavily burdened with services than the other bondmen. In some manors the *Lancetti* were considered a superior class of villein, though they often had to perform tasks of a very menial character and to submit to numerous restrictions. At Bury they were obliged to clean out certain chambers in the Abbey, and at Hindringham, in Norfolk, they had "in John's time, to keep their sheep in the lord's fold from Martinmas to Candlemas, and then to take their ewes out of fold and pay foldage,

6. Although 30 acres is usually given as the average acreage of the "full land," or virgate, it was by no means invariably of that amount, and Vinogradoff instances virgates of 15, 16, 18, 24, 40, 48, 50, 62, and even of 80 acres. See *Villainage*, p. 239. And again the outward and fixed unity of the tenement is emphasised by the same writer, "for dealing with the manorial administration virgates remained undivided, even when they were no longer occupied as integral units."—*Ibid.*, p. 402.

7. The derivation of *lancetti*, *lancetagium*, is from the Anglo-Saxon *landsæta* or *landsittend*, becoming *landsettus*. It "simply means an occupier, a man sitting on land," and is "chiefly found in the eastern districts."—Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 146.

but the other sheep remained all the year in the lord's fold."⁸ The usual acreage of the *lancetagium* is given by Mr. Rye as 8 acres, but in Gimingham the holdings were much larger, viz., 16a. or. 3p., 17a. 1r. 20p., 21a. and 21a. or. 23p.

The titles of the tenements or *houses*, as they are mostly called, are many of them curious, and perpetuate the names of former occupiers. A charge "sup acr" is laid on twenty-two of these houses for the support of the elected officials of the manor, the Wickner and the Reeve.

The ancient field names are well worthy of notice. Several still survive, for instance, *Boydells* [Boydale]: *Chantry Piece*: *Dovehouse Close*: *Foldclose*: *Foxburrow*: *Gallows Hill*: *Grave Pighle*: *Hog's Grave* [in Trimmingham]: *Iron Snacks* (from Ada and Geoffrey Snak, tenants): *Landguard Hill* [*Hangardwederhill*]: *Lord's Meadow*: *Mill Hill Close*: *Park Close*: *Peggs Dyke* [*Pekkesdyke*]: *Pottergate* [in South Repps and Trunch]: *Sandhill*: *Stonehill*, etc., whilst *Bones Pighle* in Trunch is very probably connected with *Bastbonys-hill* alias *Bonyshill*.

The Rental itself is a rather confusing document, and I have thought it simpler to summarise its contents in the following tables, which show more clearly the number of the tenants and the acreage of the tenements, with particulars of the land, the bond services and other individual peculiarities.

8. Rye, *History of Norfolk*, p. 110.

THE TENEMENTS.

FREE TENANTS.	ACREAGE OF HOLDING.	WHERE SITUATED.	
1. <i>Robert Repon.</i> Besides under <i>House of Methewolde.</i>	1 tenement and 21 acres. 5 acres.	Late of John Cuttelack and before of Henry Hane.	Rent $2/4\frac{1}{2}$ and Suit of Court.
2. <i>John Ressham.</i> ("in mesnalty") [N.B. Robert Olyver purchased of the lands of John Ressham] Besides under <i>House of Methewode.</i> (And Bond Land 20. 1. 20. q. v.)	1 tenement — acres probably 28a. ⁹ 10 acres. 2 acres.	Late of Wm. Porter and before of Thos. Lome. and renders.	$2/8\frac{3}{4}$ and Suit of Court. $8\frac{3}{4}$ d.]
3. <i>Elizabeth Madour.</i>	1 tenement.	formerly of John att Bourez, afterwards of Bartholomew Garleke.	4d. and Suit of Court.
4. <i>John Jekyll,</i> [tenant of part of the demesne lands of the manor, on a lease of five years, 1462, see p. 170].	18 acres.	late of John at boure.	8d., Suit of Court, double the rent in the name of relief on the death of the tenant, $3/2\frac{1}{2}$ to the Wigenar of Monysle.

9. 28a. are required to make the total of free and soiled acreage add up in agreement with the rental.

FREE TENANTS.	ACREAGE OF HOLDING.	WHERE SITUATED.	
5. <i>The House of Methewolde</i> , held of old	21a. 1r. 20p. of free land, "ultra terra sol," (in addition to the <i>soiled</i> land).	and renders.	11/9½d. and Suit as above.
Whereof			
(a) Robert Repon holds	5a.	formerly of Henry Hane.	
(b) Thos. atte Heythe ¹⁰	4a. 2r. op.	formerly of Richard Julles at <i>Browneshonde</i> .	
(c) John Resham ¹⁰	1a. or. op.	formerly of Wm. Porter.	
(d) Edmund Pounder ¹⁰	2a.	formerly of "the said John," lying upon <i>Weder-</i> <i>hill</i> , called <i>le Halibred</i> .	
(e) Robert Wode, Clerk ¹⁰	1a.	"What belongs to the chantry."	
(f) Robert Gogull ¹⁰	8a.	in <i>Resham's Croft</i> .	
(g) Thomas Garleck ¹⁰	3r. 20p. 1 messuage & 16a.		
(h) William Purke ¹⁰	2r. op.		
(i) Nicholas Packeman ¹⁰	1 messuage, 2r. op. 2r. at.	"½a. with its messuage" <i>Dallysmer</i> , formerly of John Braunt.	
	2a.	Next <i>Garleke's Cross</i> on the West part, formerly of Bawchyn.	

10. Also tenants of Bond land.

(j) Edward Braye ¹¹	1r.	op.	late of John ———,
(k) Richd. Wake ¹¹	3r.	op.	in <i>Kelk late Alleyns</i> .
(l) Wm. Pakeman ¹¹	2r.	op.	"in the sea" at <i>Segale Medewe</i> .
(m) John Jerveis ¹¹	2r.	3op.	formerly of Rycherson,
(n) Robert Baker ¹¹	2r.	op.	upon <i>Lankettl</i> .
(o) John Palmer ¹¹	2a.	or.	"in the sea" now of Agnes
		op.	Braye.
	1r.	2op.	formerly of John Tasame
			(?)
Sum.	46a.	1r. 3op. ¹²	
Sum fre & soyelid.	132a.	3r. 3op.	

11. Also tenants of Bond land.

12. The acreage actually totals 46.3.30. Possibly Wm. Packman's 2r. "in the sea" have been purposely omitted, though in that case it is curious that 2a. "in the sea" held by Robert Barber are included.

BOND TENEMENTS.

[Called *NATIVE TENANTS* in the RENTAL.]

[Divided among all the tenants.]

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
<i>House of Gothemond</i> whereof (a) Edmund Pounder formerly Cecily atte Heythe holds	“ of old ” 30a. or. 20p. [in mar g in 26a. 3½r.] a mes : & Croft. . . 1a. 3r. op. 11. 20p. 21. op. 21. op. 31. op. 1a. or. 20p. 21. 10p. 31. op. 11. op. 11. op. 21. 20p. 30p. 20p. 20p. 21. op.	[14 tenants, with holdings varying from 20 perches to 9 acres, 2 rods, op. 3½ acres “in the sea.”] <i>on Bastbony's Hill</i> . in <i>Benegrave</i> . . . atte <i>Tummyslonde</i> . atte <i>Copelond</i> . . . atte <i>Rokeslond</i> . . . atte <i>Lytelmedue</i> . . atte <i>Millgatehill</i> . . at <i>Langfurlonge</i> . . at <i>Cryngilhill</i> . . . in <i>Wyllystoft</i> . . . under <i>Bonyshill</i> . . at <i>Bastbonyshill</i> . . at <i>Stokelonde</i> . . . at <i>Sekelonde</i> . . .	of Assize, 6/11d. Com- mon Aid at Michaelmas, 2/4d. 1 Hen, value 2d.	3½ days ploughing if they have a plough, and if they have not they shall not plough ! 2 days har- rowing that which is ploughed at the sowing of oats and barley : 1 day's hoeing in summer, “and the value of that work if he does not do it shall be ¾d., but the tenants are charged among themselves at 3d.” 3½ days reaping in autumn, worth ½ d., tenants charged for the 3 days at 12d. 1 day carrying the lord's corn in autumn “with his six partners” worth —, if he has a waggon, if not

he shall carry the seventh part of one cartload, and the tenants are charged at 4d. with the said seventh part: And they shall mow in the lord's meadow or give to the lord amongst themselves 2/2d., each gives 1½d. And they shall make the lord's hay every other year with the vill of Trymyngham and Sowthrepps, and shall carry it with the vill of Trymyngham in the fourth year.

For "small works" he and his partners shall give for trituratione [threshing], 2/4d.: Wynskott, 8d., fossatur, 10d. and Ernynghmedue, 4½d., for which they shall each give to the lord 2½d. And each shall make one foot above the pool and

	[1r. op. 2r. op. 1r. op. [etc.]]				2d.
	1r. op.	2r. op.	1r. op. [etc.]		
Total Acres . . .	9a.	2r.	op.	[in 18 pieces] . . .	
(b) John Pays, formerly of Gervase Richerson.	2r.	op.			
(c) Wm. Packeman, formerly of — Paryng.	2op.			at Wederhill . . .	—
(d) Thos. Garlek.	3r.	op.		of bruery benethe ye Kelkys.	1½d.
(e) Wm. Purke, formerly of John Jervess the elder & Robt. Jervas.	1r.	op.		above his place.	
(f) Richd. Wake, formerly of John Jervess.	2r.	op.		in croft . . .	
(g) John Jervis, otherwise Rycherson, (formerly of John Jervis the elder).	1r.	2op.		in the sea . . .	
	1a.	or.	2op.	in the croft & marsh of John Jervis, the elder . . .	
	2r.	2op.		in two pieces . . .	
				attie Sekelond . . .	

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
(formerly of Cecily Baxter).	11. 20p. 20p. 11. op. 11. op. 21. 20p.	ate Copelond, "there" at <i>Toungate</i> at <i>lang furlonge</i> . . <i>benethe ye falyate</i> .		carry ¹³ once a year to Norwich or Hornynge or Blakenye or give 3d. And they shall do suit at the Courts called <i>Hogleve</i> (elsewhere <i>Howselève</i>), they are charged amongst themselves at 5d. Also for "sowing sylver," ¹⁴ Sheresturne (Sheriff's turn) & other things at 2d. And each tenant shall serve as Wegenarius, messor or reeve, when elected, & shall take allowance of the rent of Alan Methewolde, 11d., Forwold, 7d., Ede Snak 4d., & the Chantry rent
(formerly Garlek's).	11. 20p.	at <i>Tumysland</i> . . . in <i>the sea</i> , 20p. . .		
(formerly Cecily Baxter's).	20p.	at <i>Puysmere</i>		
(formerly Brown's).	11. op.	at <i>Threacres</i>		
now Robt. Jervis, the same holds	20p.	at <i>Stockelonde</i> . . .		
(formerly of Peter Eswete?)	31. op.	at <i>Boyedale</i>		
(h) John Ressham. [formerly Drory's].	5a. 11. 20p.	[in thirteen pieces.] <i>Lamkotehole</i> . . .		
(i) Robt. Baker.	2a. 21. op. 1a. 21. op.	in <i>the sea</i> in <i>the croft & marsh</i> .		

13. "A very important item in the work necessary for medieval husbandry was the business of carrying produce from one part of the country to the other. The manors of a great lord were usually dispersd in several counties, and even in the case of small landowners it was not very easy to arrange a regular communication with the market. The obligation to provide horses and carts gains in importance accordingly. These *averagia* are laid out for short and long distances, and the peasants have to take their turn at them one after the other."—Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, pp. 285-6.

14. "Sowing sylver" was no doubt a payment made in commutation of the labour service of sowing the lord's corn. Instances of similar payments are given by Vinogradoff, for example, *barlick-silver*, *fsh-silver*, *malt-silver* etc. See *Villainage in England*, p. 291.

2d., & the rent of the parker 18d., & for his office 8 days in autumn worth 8d., $4\frac{1}{2}$ days 2d., "the moiety of one east worth 3d.," & one carrying (averag) worth 3d. & he is quit of ploughing.

(j) Thos. Heythe.	1r.	op.	<i>atte Tounge</i> . . .	
	4a.	2r.	op.	[in four pieces.]
	3r.	op.	<i>of the Bruery at Kelkes</i>	1½d.
	1r.	op.	<i>of marsh lying in the marsh of Crenal</i> . .	1d.
	1a.	or.	op.	[in two pieces] . . .
	1r.	op.	<i>of Marsh "there."</i> .	
(k) John Benyngton (formerly Brown's). 1. John Palmer (formerly of John Jerveiz).	1a.	or.	op.	<i>bast Wederhill.</i> (sic. Could it be an error of the Copyist for waste on Wederhill?)
		2op.		<i>atte Stokelonde, formerly Oldberye Berchewoode & elsewhere</i>
In the lord's hands. Adam Blackman & Robert Poul hold lands at "Sup acr vj qr" [i.e., for the payment of the wickner, 6½d.] Sum	23a.	2r.	2op.	In allowance of rent of lands and tenements in decay as above, 21d.

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
2. <i>House of Keep.</i> (4 tenants. Allow- ance of Rent for land in the sea 1/-.) "Sup acr vj ob q ^r "	21. 2. 0.	"in the sea" 3a. 2r. Bruery 1a. Land at <i>Bonyhill</i> ; above <i>Benegrave</i> ; upon <i>Hanganwederhill</i> ; <i>atle</i> <i>Bytoppes</i> ; <i>atle</i> <i>Mertre</i> ; upon <i>Boye-</i> <i>dalehill</i> ; <i>atle Sey-</i> <i>gates</i> ; bruery at <i>Merkedale</i> ; <i>Seke-</i> <i>lond</i> ; in <i>Lamkote</i> ; in <i>Lytelmedwe</i> ; upon <i>Crynglehill</i> ; above <i>Keysgrave</i> ; upon <i>Rythyll</i> now called <i>Purkeshill</i> ; <i>atle</i> <i>Fanys</i> ; <i>atle Weder-</i> <i>hill the Hedlonde</i> ; <i>atle Foxoles</i> ; <i>Over</i> <i>Boydale</i> ; <i>Wederhill</i> ; <i>at the gate</i>	Assize 2/5d. Common Aid at Michs. 3/-. 1 Hen. 2½ eggs.	As the House of Gothe- mond.
3. <i>House of Wren-</i> <i>tyng.</i> 20 tenants (Allowance for land in the sea 1/8.)	25. 1. 0.	"in the sea" 4a. 4d. rent of bruery & marsh. <i>Rythill</i> now called <i>Purkeshill</i> ; above & in <i>Bene-</i>	4d. Assize 4/11½d. Common Aid 2/3. 1 Hen.	As Gothemond.

2½ eggs.

grave: upon *Wederhill* beneath the *Fal-yate*: in the *Hom-croft*: in *Ogott's Medewe*: in the *myd-dell croft*: in the *overcroft*: in *Bene-grave*, *at Rokeslonde*, at *Sex-gate*, *atle Tumyslonde*, at *Fanys*, 20r. 20p. with a cottage at *Croft* called *Parynges*; *Bonyshill*, *Tumysmere*, *Wederhill*, *atle Brounyslonde*, 1r. 20p. of *bruery* in *Thrysmar*, rendering 3d., *Stokelonde*, *Langfurlonge*, *Brounshedlonde*, 1 rood of marsh rendering 1d. *atle Hydderthre-acres*, *atle Threacres*, in *Pounds (?) Over-croft*, at *Lytelmedew*, *Bone Benegrave*, at

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
4. <i>House of Drawdysch.</i> 11 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 3/-).	23. 3. 0.	<i>Bronneslod</i> , <i>Stonyland</i> formerly <i>Gravys</i> . "in the sea" 6a. 2r; bruery 1a. 1r; marsh 1r. <i>Wyllystoft</i> : <i>Qwertlonde</i> : <i>Tounysland</i> : <i>Basibonyshill</i> : <i>Kesgravehole</i> : "in the medwe:" "by the medwe:" <i>Boyedale</i> : <i>Wyllystofte Hedlonde</i> : <i>Hytheir Threacres</i> : <i>Shortlonde</i> : <i>Wederhill</i> : <i>Stocklonde</i> . . . "in the sea" 13a. <i>Basibonyshill</i> : <i>Wyllystoft</i> : <i>Qwertlonde</i> : <i>Rainyscroft</i> : <i>Pervysmere</i> : above <i>Rytillgrave</i> : <i>Brodaker</i> in <i>Monesle</i> : <i>Foxoles</i> : <i>Boyedalehill</i> . . . "in the sea" 10a. 3r. bruery 1a. 1r. <i>Threacres</i> : <i>Boyedathill</i> :	Assize 2/3d. Common Aid 16d. 1 Hen. 2½ eggs.	To reap 8 days in autumn, value 1d. for each work, & 3 half days value ½d. each. Other services as Gothemond, whereof 4 days belong to the land in the sea, charged at 4d.; & shall carry dung for 20 perches, value 4d.
5. <i>House of Ram.</i> 8 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea 5/7d.)	30. 3. 0.		Assize 2/1½d. Common Aid 14d. 1 Hen value 2d. 2½ eggs.	To carry dung for 20p. value 4d. Other services as Drawdysch, i.e., 8 days & 3 half days, whereof 6½ days belong to the land in the sea & are charged 6½d. Tenants shall do as Gothemonde.
6. <i>House of Ogot.</i> 6 tenants. (Allowance of Rent) for land in	28. 2. 0.		Assize 1/9½d. Common Aid 16d.	To carry 20p. of dung, value 4d. [etc.] as Drawdysch, whereof 5 days &

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
Sup acr vijd. ob iiijd. di' q ^a [erased in the original].		<i>hill: atte Copelonde; in the Onycroft; Wederhill: ate Myd- delthreacres: ate Tumyslonde: Bonys- hill: Hydderthre- acres</i>		
9. <i>House of Boye.</i> 7 tenants. (Allowance of <i>Rent</i> for land in the sea 13d.)	6. 1. 0.	<i>"in the sea" 2a. Carwell: Benegrave; Rythill called Purkeshill: Boydal- hilledlond: Willys- toftedlond: Keys- grave Hole: Rythill- grave: ate the Trey- nyng Buske: in Wellmer, in his close & abutting upon Hegges: Hogges- grave: atte Parvys Howe: Benegrave . Above Dalkesmer called Tattams . . . "in the sea" 2r. ate Brodinge</i>	Assize 9d. Common Aid 13d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.	To reap 3 half days in autumn value ½d. Other- wise as Gothemonde.
10. <i>Tenement of Tat- tan.</i> 2 tenants.	1a. 0. 0.		4d.	& does nothing else.
11. <i>Tenement of Grome.</i> 2 tenants. Sup acr xd.	4. 1. 0.		5d.	& does nothing else.

12. <i>Tenement of Broke.</i> 2 tenants.	3r.	op.	upon <i>Feithill</i> , at <i>Trainysheerne</i>	2d.	& does nothing else.
13. <i>Tenement of Mynton.</i> 2 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 7½d.)	3.	o.	"in the sea" 3r. upon <i>Hangarde Wederhill</i> ; <i>Shortelonde</i> ; <i>Boyedale</i> . . .	1/3½d.	3 half days in autumn value ½d.
14. <i>Tenement of Roger Smyth.</i> 6 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 1/10d.)	8.	1.	o.(?) "in the sea" 5a. <i>Rokeslonde</i> ; <i>Wederhill</i> ; abutting upon <i>Segatemedewe</i> ; bruery at <i>Myrkedale</i> ; upon <i>Merkeigate</i> ; in ye <i>Innam upon Heythe</i> . .	1/11d. Common 12d.	To mow in the meadow.
15. <i>Tenement of Bonyng.</i> 3 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 2/7d.)	6.	3.	20. "in the sea" 6a. <i>Wederhill</i> called <i>Brants Dale</i> ; <i>Rogers Verde</i> ; <i>Boyedale</i> . .	Assize 2/1½d. Common 12d.	3 half days in autumn, value ½d.
16. <i>Tenement of Richard Chelcy.</i> 2 tenants.	3r.	op.	<i>ate Falyate</i> ; bruery on the east of the mill.	2½d.	& does nothing else.
17. <i>Tenement of Brykke.</i> 9 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 3/-.)	17.	2.	30. "ate See" 6a. 1r. bruery, 1r. 20p. <i>Langfurlonge</i> ; upon <i>Ryehill</i> ; <i>ate Bromhill</i> ; at <i>Brodinge</i> ; <i>Stonylonde</i> ; <i>Suncun-</i>	Assize 1/11d. Common 2/3d. 2 Hens, 4d. 5 eggs.	To reap 3 half days in autumn. Other services at Gothemond, except the suit of Court called <i>Howseleve</i> .
"Sup acr viiij "					

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
18. Tenement of — ("Tenement prui")		<i>lond: Stockelonde:</i>		
19. Tenement of Walter Pyllo.	1. 2. 0.	<i>Boydale: at Clap-</i> pinges. in the sea	8d.	& nothing else.
20. Tenement of Richd. Romone.	—	in the sea	8d.	& nothing else.
21. Tenement of Richd. Brante & Roger, his brother.	—	in the sea	8d.	& nothing else.
22. Tenement of Roger Brown & Wm. Pays.	—	in the sea	6d.	does all other services & 3 half days, value $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
23. Tenement of Margaret Brante	3r. op.	in the sea	yearly $\frac{3}{4}$ d. at the 4 terms.	& does 3 half days, value $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.
24. Robert the Chap- lain.	1r. op.	renders	2d.	
25. William Selonde.		renders	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
26. Richard Alon- daye.		renders	1d.	& half a day.
27. John Stroppe.		renders	6d.	
28. Geoffrey Snak and Ada the widow.	2r. op.	render	4d.	
29. Walter Edysson.			$1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	

30. Tenement of Peter Bucke. 3 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for $\frac{1}{2}$ a. in the sea 4d.) All Hamstales & abb in Thorpgate, part of the vill of Gy- mygham, videl.	4.	o.	o.	"in the sea" 2r. Enclosure at Black- mans.	12d.	& nothing else.
31. John Jerveys.		1r.	2op.	with a cottage. . . <i>le Welhill</i>	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
32. Cecilia Doo.		—		1 "abbut" upon which she lives, (formerly Piltes) .	1d.	
33. Wm. Packeman.		—		1 "abbut," towards her gate	1d.	
34. Robt. Powle.		—		1 "abb," upon which he lives	1d.	
35. John Jerveys.			6p.	for <i>Breony's Verde</i> . for <i>Sandlakes Verde</i> . for 1 "abb"	1d. 1d. $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
36. Robt. Aleyn.				1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "abb" called <i>le</i> <i>Welle Verde</i>	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
37. Walter Garleke.				1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "abb," upon which he lives	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
				3 "abb," upon which he lives	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
38. <i>House of Drorye</i> . 12 tenants. Allow- ance of Rent for land & tenements in the sea, 2/6d.) "Sup. acr. vjd."	21. 0. 0.	"in the sea" 4a.: bruery, 3a.: marsh, 2r. <i>Clerkes Croft</i> with <i>Pittells</i> : <i>Est-</i> <i>lund</i> : <i>Tobuske</i> : <i>Wellhill</i> : in <i>Blekys-</i> <i>mer</i> (<i>Blekusmer</i>): <i>Stocklondes</i> : <i>Myl-</i> <i>gatehill</i> : bruery ate <i>Dykested</i> : <i>Boyedale</i> : bruery upon <i>Men-</i> <i>chill</i> : <i>Myrkedale</i> : <i>benethe Forwallshill</i> . "in the sea" 8a. 2r. <i>Droryscroft</i> : <i>Blekus-</i> <i>mer</i> : atte <i>Lamkotte</i> : at <i>Sondhill</i> : <i>Drory-</i> <i>smescroft</i> : <i>Welle-</i> <i>dale</i> : upon <i>Cringil-</i> <i>hill</i> : <i>Sexgatehill</i> : <i>Langfurlonge</i> : <i>We-</i> <i>derhill</i> : <i>Stocklonde</i> : <i>Stonhill</i> : att <i>Ber-</i> <i>fordes Yate</i> : within the piece called <i>Dowys</i> : <i>Tumyslund</i> :	Assize 1/11½d. Common Aid, 1/4d. 1 Hen. 2½ eggs.	As <i>Drawdysch</i> & <i>Goth-</i> <i>mond</i> . 3 days belong to the land in the sea, value 3d.
39. <i>House of Derkyn</i> . 9 tenants. (Allow- ance of Rent for land in the sea, 3/-.) "Sup. acr. vd."	25. 3. 20.		3/1½d. of free rent. 3/3½d. Common Aid, 1/4d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.	As <i>Drawdysch</i> . 4½ days be- long to the land in the sea.

40. *House of Kyte-*
ling. 20 tenants.
 (Allowance of Rent
 for land in the sea,
 4/8d.)

35. 2. o.

Marchysmer: atte
Grenegate near *Pot-*
tergate: Pottergate:
atte Gatts next *Arner-*
sellys (?) : atte
Clarksgrave other-
wise Stocklondes:
Wellhill: Lamkote-
hill

"in the sea." 12a.

2r. *Pottergate:*

Stocklondes: atte

Spekesacre: Cringil-

hill: Sexgates: Ne-

their Boyedale:

bruery ate Dyecstede:

Grenegate: Suncun-

lond: at Mylgates:

Ketelingstoft: Welle-

dale: atte Dowes:

Tumyslond: Mar-

chysmer: Boyedale

Stoclondes: Myrke-

dale: Harroe Shippe-

londe: Blekysmer:

Sonde Hill: Lam-

kotehill: formerly

Oldeberly's: atte

Free Rent

3/8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

6/10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Common Aid,

1/4d.

1 Hen, 2d.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ eggs.

As Drawdysch. 5 days be-
 long to the land in the
 sea, value 5d.

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
41. <i>Tenement of Simon Herryson.</i>	—	<i>Dykestede: upon Feythill; bruery at Botundes Dale; bruery ate Wamlocks; at Falyate; Lamkote; Brantisdale.</i> renders	2d.	& nothing else.
42. <i>Tenement of John A'Gate.</i>	—	renders	2d.	& nothing else.
43. <i>Tenement of Samuel son of Mabel. 1 tenant.</i>	1. 1. 0.	<i>ate Berfords</i>	4d.	& nothing else.
44. <i>Tenement of Godwyn. 2 tenants.</i>	1. 0. 0.	<i>Ate Berfordes: Boydell</i>	4d.	
45. <i>Tenement of Ger- vac' nephew of the priest. 4 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 1/11d.)</i>	6. 3. 0.	"in the sea" 2a. 2r. <i>ate Doryse; ate Drawlas; ate Stocke- londe</i>	4/-.	& nothing else.

	no given.	acreage	"in the sea" 2r.	8d.	& nothing else.
46. <i>Tenement of Walter Spole</i> (?) Sporle).					
47. ——— 1 tenant formerly Skotts.	2r.	op.	Thos. Atheythe holds 1r., 2d., "noted in the old costumal."	4d.	
48. <i>Tenement of Alan Maste.</i> 1 tenant.	2r.	2op.	<i>Mastecroft</i>	4d.	& nothing else.
49. <i>House of Palmer.</i> 8 tenants. (Allow- ance of Rent for land in the sea, 1/1d.)	11.	1. 10.	"In the sea" 3a. Bruery 1r. 3op. <i>att Falyate; Ble- kersmere; Stoc- lond</i> ; in a croft formerly <i>Meykes</i> ; <i>Stake; Lancotyll</i> ; <i>Myrkdale</i>	Assize 1/3 1/2d. Common Aid 1/2d.	3 half days in autumn with the House of Godde, value 1/2d.
"Sup acr vjd"				1 Hen, with the House of Godde, value 2d.	To make one "gylwyn," value 1/2d. To work in everything with the House of Godde. Otherwise as Gothemond.
50. <i>House of Godde.</i> 4 tenants. (Allow- ance of Rent for land in the sea, 1/1d.)	10.	1. 0.	"in the sea" 3a. In the end of the croft by <i>le Hollway</i> ; <i>Godd's Hedlond</i> ; <i>at</i> <i>Grenegate benethe the</i> <i>Merkere</i> ; <i>Stoklond</i> ; <i>Weldele</i>	Free 6d. 1/5 1/2d. Common Aid 1/1d.	All services with the House of Palmer.
51. <i>House of Ayl-</i> "Sup acr vij ob"	9.	2. 0.	<i>Droryscroft</i> ; <i>Lan-</i>	(Free Rent	As Gothemond.

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
<i>ward.</i> 15 tenants. (Ayleward son of Adam Rede renders to the lord 1/5d. for 2a. 1r. in the sea and it is allowed to the tenants).		<i>cothyll</i> : <i>Stoclondes</i> : <i>Lankote</i> : bruery at <i>Gallystoft send</i> : (<i>Gallscroft send</i>): upon <i>Pamyshille</i> : at <i>Kocrode</i> : <i>Weldale</i> <i>Harrowshapelond</i> : <i>Lange furlonge</i> : <i>Copelond</i> : <i>Draw-</i> <i>leyez</i> : at <i>Threacres</i> formerly <i>Pallettis</i> : 3r. abutting on the <i>Fen</i> : <i>Helyscroft</i> : <i>Dorellsgrave</i> at <i>Myl-</i> <i>legates</i> : land abut- ting upon the free land of the church of <i>Monesley</i> upon the east	2/2½d.) Assize 3/10½d. Common Aid 2/1d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.	
52. <i>House of Rooke.</i> 14 tenants.	8. o. o.	<i>Rokscroft</i> : upon <i>For-</i> <i>roldshille</i> : <i>Weldele</i> : <i>Spykacre</i> : <i>Lanncote</i> : upon <i>Wederhill</i> : <i>Brantsdale</i> : <i>Sex-</i> <i>gates</i> : <i>Mylligates</i> : bruery upon <i>Mere-</i>	Free Rent 1/0½d. Assize 2/5½d. Common Aid 1/4d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.	As Gothemond.

"Sup acr xjd." [erased
in the original.]

53. Tenement of William Lesse. 4 tenants.	3.	0.	0.	hill: Ryberysquynnes: Somtionland: Stokland: Collysland: Wattarstoke: Stonylond: Lyttylmedowe: Myrkdale .	2/-.	& nothing else.
54. Tenement of Henry Smythe. 3 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 7d.)	3.	0.	0.	Croft: Droryswelle: Spyacre: Blekmere. "in the sea," 2r. Smythscroft, next Rokesyarde: Cope- lond: Lamkote . . .	2 (s?)	& nothing else.
55. Tenement formerly called Damhouse. 9 tenants.	13.	0.	30.	Croft formerly Jekylls 2r. at the head of the pond: Estlond: Nethereslond: Drorys Well: at Hegg in the eastern piece: Grynglehole: at Buldelynge: abutting upon Fenne: abutting upon Hegg: abutting upon Parke: ir. of bruery the Hedlond att the inna upon Heythe: Goodsoft:	8/54d.	& nothing else.

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
56. <i>House of Hylle</i> . 12 tenants. (Allow- ance of Rent for land in the sea, 2/4d).	23. 3. 20.	<i>Sandhill; Cockrode</i> . "in the sea" 5a. <i>Hylle gow scroft</i> ; <i>Sandhylgate; Blak-</i> <i>ysmere</i> ; upon <i>Hey-</i> <i>hill; Boydale; Sand-</i> <i>hill; Stoklond</i> ; upon <i>le Hille</i> above <i>New-</i> <i>house; Goddystoft</i> ; <i>Kocrode</i> ; at <i>Alberds</i> ; abutting upon <i>Parke; att Fany's</i> ; <i>Lankotehill</i> ; abutt- ing upon <i>Fen</i> ; <i>Blekysmer; Boydale-</i> <i>hedlond; Shortwonge</i> (wong = meadow, An- glo-Saxon); bruery at <i>Richard of ye Hill</i> ; bruery upon <i>Clap-</i> <i>pynghill</i>	Free Rent 1/1d. Assize 4/8d. Common Aid 2/-.	As Gothemond.
"Sup acr vd. ob"				
57. <i>House of Cow-</i> <i>tyng</i> . 5 tenants. (Allowance of Rent	9. 2. 0.	"in the sea" 1a. <i>Cowtyng scroft</i> ; <i>Sandhill; Collys-</i>	Assize 9½d. Common Aid, 1/-.	As Gothemond.

for land in the sea, 4½d).				<i>croftend; Crakards- londes; abovyn Sand- hill; Sandhyllgate; Dorellgrave . . .</i>	<i>"in the sea"</i>	3a.			1 Hen. 2½ eggs.
58. House of Towle. 4 tenants. (Allow- ance of Rent for land in the sea, 2/-). "Sup acr viij (sic)"	12.	0.	30.	<i>3r. 20p. Langfur- long; at Brodyng; Stoklund; Sandhill; Sandhyllhed lond; Hayhyllhed lond; Crynglehyll; Cow- tyngscroft . . .</i>	Assize 1/6d. Common Aid 1/4d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.				As Gothamond.
59. Tenement of Cole. 6 tenants.	3.	3.	0.	<i>Collyscroft; Est- lund; Kennyslund; Tobuskagale . . .</i>	1/4d.				& nothing else.
60. House of Yate- house. 10 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 1/4½d.)	20.	0.	0.	<i>"in the sea" 5a. atte Goosewonge; atte Waterstoke; Est- londes; atte Woode- crofthyll; at Parke; abutting upon For- roldshyll; at the head of the pond; 3r. of marsh in the medowe; bruery at the end of Droryscroft or Clerkscroft; bruery in the Inna upon le</i>	Free 2/0½d. Assize 2/9½d. Common Aid, 2/3d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.	Rent	To carry the lords corn in August for 1 day with the House of Powle. Other- wise as Gothemond.		

Name.	Rent.	Description of land.	Acreage.	Bond Services.
"Sup acr vj ob."		<i>Hether</i> : a piece under the <i>Park</i> called <i>Powlys</i> ; <i>Sexgats-hyll</i> ; at the <i>Stake</i> ; <i>Lamkote</i> ; at <i>Gatts</i> ; <i>Botunesdale</i> ; <i>Lamkothyll</i> , bruery at <i>Sexholys</i> ; bruery at <i>Trymyingham Myll</i> ; bruery upon <i>Burdonyshyll</i>		
61. <i>House of Forrolde</i> . 13 tenants. (Allowance of Rent for land in the sea, 1/0½d.)	12. 3. 20.	"in the sea" 2a. 3r. <i>Wellhyll</i> : <i>Goosewonge</i> ; <i>Sandhyll</i> ; at the end of the pond; beneath <i>Forroldehyll</i> ; <i>Stoklond</i> ; <i>Srykstoft</i> ; above the <i>Heggs</i> in ye west pece (do. in ye east side;) formerly <i>Oldbarleys</i> ; several pieces at <i>Heggs</i> ; <i>Crynglehyll</i> ; <i>Crendlsen</i> (? <i>Crenelfen</i>); <i>Sonnconlond</i> ; <i>Drayleyse</i> formerly <i>Els-</i>	Free Rent & 2/8½d. & 1/1d. "whereof fee." Assize 7/8½d. Common Aid 1/2d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.	To carry corn for ½ day in August with Peter Blake. Otherwise as <i>Gothemond</i> , & "has allowance 7d. by the year."

"sup. acr. vd."				<i>wetts: Lamkote: Sandhyll: abutting upon Fen: in Picthells (? pightells): 11. of marsh between the marsh formerly Lyl- telberrys: do. for- merly Gollards . . .</i>				
62. The heirs of John Stroppe.				render by the year .	4d.			
63. do. of Wm. Pes- tell.				" " "	2d.			
64. do of Richd., son of Wm.				" " "	2d.			
65. do. of Simon Conteman.				" " "	3d.			
66. Wm. Roper.	1a.	21.	op.	<i>Ropes Croft . . .</i>	3d.			
67. Tenement of Eden Morn. 3 tenants. "Sup. acr. vijd."	1.	1.	10.	<i>Bakhowswoone: Cok- rode: abutting upon Forwoldhill: attie Stake upon a pighiell for- merly Resham's called Meyezcroft: attie Stake "In the sea" 4a. In the piciallcroft</i>	10½d.		& nothing else.	
68. Tenement of Hampton. 2 tenants.	1.	0.	29.		8d.		& nothing else.	
69. House of Peter Blake. 10 tenants.	11.	2.	10.		Free Rent 1/1d.			To do ½ day in autumn, & also ½ day's carrying in

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
(Allowance for land in the sea, 11d.)		called <i>Meyescroft</i> ; <i>Markepyts</i> ; <i>Bottis-</i> <i>yate</i> now <i>Martyns-</i> <i>yate</i> ; abutting upon <i>Forwoldshyll</i> ; <i>Boy-</i> <i>dalehedlund</i> ; for- merly <i>Elsweits</i> ; for- merly <i>Berchwoode</i> ; <i>att Pottergate</i> ; <i>att</i> <i>Woode</i> ; <i>Somclond</i> ; <i>att Bottslond</i> ; <i>Koc-</i> <i>rode</i> ; <i>att Stake</i> . . . enclosure on the east called <i>Wyllez</i> : a t <i>Stake</i>	Assize 1/10d. Common Aid, 1/2d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2½ eggs.	autumn with House of Forfold. Otherwise as Gothemond.
70. <i>Tenement of</i> <i>Elm</i> . Widow, 3 tenants. "Sup. acr. xijd."	1. 3. 10.		13d.	two ½ days in Autumn.
71. <i>Tenement of</i> <i>Samuel Botildes-</i> <i>sone</i> . 3 tenants. "Sup. acr. xd. ob."	1. 2. 0.	<i>le Stake</i>	6½d.	two ½ days in autumn and nothing else.
72. <i>Tenement of</i> <i>Warin Crowe</i> . 3 tenants. (Allowance of rent for land in the sea, 5d?)	3. 3. 0.	"in the sea" 1a. <i>Croft & pighiell at</i> <i>Gogullys</i> ; <i>Sandhill</i> ; <i>Neyrgate</i> : at <i>Stake</i> .	5d.	8 days in autumn and nothing else.

73. <i>Tenement of Roger Splenlyng.</i> 1 tenant.	1a.	o.	o.	& a messuage.	1/5d.	To dig one foot of the pond ("Et fac i Pedem super stagnu.") 1 To mow in the meadow with his partner. & 1/2 day in autumn.
74. <i>Tenement of Herffraye.</i> 5 tenants.	1.	3.	o.	Atte Layedore: att Stake: marsh & bruery	6d.	
75. <i>Tenement of Can-nyng.</i> 6 tenants. "Sup. acr. viijd."	2.	3.	o.	21. of bruery. At Neyrgate: abutting on Bonyshyll: Boy- dalehyll: bruery above Droryscroft. Upon Drabhulhil: Atte Grenegate upon Heythe	1/4d.	& one 1/2 day in autumn and nothing else.
76. <i>Tenement of Walter son of Maud.</i> 5 tenants. "Sup. acr. xijd. ob grs."	3.	1.	20.	in the furlong called Curlehedlond . . .	Free Rent 1/4d. 1/7d.	To reap for 6 days in autumn and render one 1/2 day price 5 (?).
77. <i>Tenement of Curle.</i> 3 tenants. "Sup. acr. iiijd."	5.	o.	o.		1/8d.	
78. <i>House of Powle.</i> 23 tenants. (Allow- ance of Rent for land in the sea, 1/5 1/2d.)	19.	2.	20.	"in the sea" 5. 1. 20. <i>Nederstoklondes:</i> <i>Stoklondes:</i> 3r. of marsh inclosed in a <i>pittell: Purdonsmere:</i> bruery <i>benethe Myll:</i> <i>Garlek's Gate:</i>	Free Rent 12/-. Assize 10/3 1/2d. Common Aid 1/4d. 1 Hen, 2d. 2 1/2 eggs.	To reap for 8 days in autumn, & three 1/2 days: to cart dung for 20p.: to carry for the lord 1 day in autumn with House of Yatehouse. Otherwise as Gothemond.

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
"Sum"	holdings reach a much larger total, & at the end of the list is written 46a. 11. 15½p." But the hold- ings only ap- pear to total 33. 3. 3¾.	<i>Gre n e g a t e</i> next <i>Heythe</i> ; in the inham <i>super Helhe</i> ; <i>Gallus-</i> <i>toft</i> ; <i>Brodallund</i> ; abutting upon <i>Fen</i> ; <i>Myrkedale</i> ; <i>Powlys-</i> <i>toft</i> ; att <i>Parke</i> ; <i>Ry-</i> <i>cherysyate</i> ; <i>Brode-</i> <i>water</i> ; at <i>Heglund</i> ; <i>Cokstole</i> ; <i>Dykystoft</i> <i>Herynglund</i> ; <i>Water-</i> <i>stoke</i> ; <i>Curlestoft</i> ; <i>Woodcroft h y l l</i> ; <i>Overyche</i> ; <i>Smythe-</i> <i>h y l l</i> ; <i>Quynhyll</i> ; <i>Bladys</i> ; <i>Lamkote</i> ; by the way called <i>the</i> <i>Netherslade</i> ; piece under the <i>Park</i> called <i>Woodcroft</i> ; <i>Nethewoldyate</i> ; ab- butting upon the way at <i>Parke</i> called <i>Rogers h y l l</i> or <i>Rogerysgate</i> ; piece under the <i>Park</i>		

79. Tenement of Speltynge. 15 tenants.	11. 2. 20.	called Heggatwell: Cookestole Ernyng-lond: Gallystoft-send: formerly Kne-bordes: att Sandhill: at Quynhyll: benethe the Merketre: Overy-ciez: Ryverysquyns. Upon the Fen: in the Inham Sup Heihe: much bruery: Bro-dallond: Myrkedale: Pekkesdeke ("Peggs Dyke" is still a field name in Trimmingham, see Tithe map). A butting upon Fenne	3/6d.	& should thresh the lord's grain & nothing else.
80. Tenement of Roger son of Agnes Rede. 1 tenant.	21. op.		4d.	& nothing else.
81. Tenement of Pytman. 8 tenants.	5. 2. 20.	Abutting upon the Fenne: be west the slade: bruery benethe Caponscrosse: benethe Roperscroft: west of Brodallond	2/6 ³ / ₄ d.	& nothing else.
82. Tenement of Cowtynge. 5 tenants.	12. 0. 10.	"in the sea" 2a. be west the Parke-	2/7 ¹ / ₂ d. Common	Aid

Name.	Rent.	Description of land.	Acreage.	Bond Services.
(Allowance for land in the sea, 8d.)		<i>yate: Gallustoftsend: at Parkyate, formerly Bulmans, called Gal-</i>	8d.	
83. Tenement of William Trussell & Hugh his son. 1 tenant.	2. 0. 0.	<i>lustoft A butting upon Fenn</i>	1/4½d.	& nothing else.
84. Tenement of Pagan the Merchant. 1 tenant.	11. 0. 0.	<i>Upon Fen</i>	7/4d.	& nothing else.
85. Tenement of Hugh Rede, Walter Wyde, Thos. son of Henry & Robt. Cole. 1 tenant.	1. 3. 0.	<i>A butting upon Fenne</i>	1/2d.	& nothing else.
86. Parcel of the Tenement of Wm. Goneld. 2 tenants.	7. 2. 0. 3a.	<i>of pasture under the park renders, the remainder, includes land on Brodcroft-hyll: at the Sante & a butting upon Fennes, & renders . .</i>	2/2d. & 4 hens. 2/4d.	

LAND AND TENEMENTS OF THE LANCETTI OF THE SAME VILL.

THE MANOR AND ITS RECORDS.

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Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
87. <i>House of Tramplecake.</i> (<i>?Cramplecake</i>), formerly <i>Peter Athyll's</i> 9 tenants. (Allowance of Rent of Assize with Common Aid for land in the sea, 2½d.)	16. 0. 30.	"in the sea" 2r. 20p. <i>Estonde</i> : <i>Neither Stoklonde</i> : <i>Mylgatehyll</i> : <i>Over Stoklonde</i> : <i>Sandhyll</i> : 1a. abouting on the <i>King's Highway</i> at <i>Welcroft</i> : <i>Somnconlond</i> : at <i>Threacres</i> : upon <i>Tubbusgate</i> : <i>Neither Esilond</i> : in <i>Tramplecake</i> : <i>Langlondes & Lurchyns Grave</i> : at <i>Cowtyngscroftend</i> : at <i>Purdons</i> on the East above the <i>Wigenar's acre</i>	2/6½d. Common Aid at Michaelmas 1/4½d. 11 chickens, 11d.	30 winter works, value ½d.: 13 summer works value ¾d.: 16 autumn works value 1d.: cuts turves, value 10d.: foldage, 3d.: makes four quarters of barley, value of the quarter 6d.: and carries dung for 20p., value 2d.
"sup acr wign iijd" the reeve of the manor vijd. 88. <i>House of Poty</i> . ¹⁵ 11 tenants. (Allowance of Rent of Assize & Common Aid for land in the	21. 0. 0.	"in the sea" 5a. at <i>Heglon</i> d in divers pieces, 1 parcel abutting on <i>the Medowclose</i> : <i>Bo y</i> .	Assize 1/3½d. Common Aid at Michs. 2/6½d.	As the <i>House of Peter Athyll</i> i.e., <i>Tramplecake</i> .

¹⁵. A certain John Poty was prior of the Austin Canons, at Beeston Regis in 1520.—[*Dugdale*.]

Name.	Acreage.	Description of land.	Rent.	Bond Services.
sea 1/3d. and all works and customs).		<i>dale</i> in Monesle near <i>Foxoles</i> : <i>benethe Langlonde</i> : near <i>Stocklond</i> & <i>Est Forera</i> , (? <i>forea</i> , headland): <i>att Stonylond</i> : <i>Spykeacre</i> next the native land of the house of John: <i>benethe</i> the <i>Marketre</i> on the south of the <i>King's Highway</i> . .		
"Sup acr Wigen iijd. t p'osto ms. ix <i>d.</i> ob q ^r : upon the acre to the Wigenar 3d. & to the Reeve of the manor 9 3/4d.				
89. <i>House of Fowle</i> . 5 tenants. (Allowance of Rent of Assize & Common Aid for land in the sea 1/3d. & half 1/4d. & all works & Customs).	21. 0. 23.	"in the sea" 5. 1. 9. In <i>Fowlycroft</i> , now call <i>Markallcroft</i> : in <i>Sparkscroft</i> : beyond <i>Gosewong</i> : 1a. lying next the way called <i>the longe Gorylond</i> : <i>Foxoles</i> : at <i>Bromholm</i> dale: <i>att Sounclund</i> : abutting upon <i>Parke</i> on the east side of the gate	11 1/4d. Common Aid at Michs. 2/10d.	As Peter Athyll.
"Sup acr wigen iij <i>d</i> " etc.				

[Wigenar 3d.: Reeve
9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.]
90. *House of Grym.* 17. 1. 20.
13 tenants.

As Peter Athyll.

Assize 1/5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Common Aid
2/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

of the park called
Gallustoft
"in the sea" 1a. 1r.
20. Formerly "*Lyt-*
tylberys: 3a. within
the piece below *the*
park of the lord:
Suncunlond: *Stok-*
lond: *besowthe We-*
derhyll: *headland*
formerly *Parynges*:
Langfurlong: *South*
hyll: *att Prestsgrave*:
Tubbusgate

"Sup acr" etc:

[Wigenar 3d. Reeve
7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.]

THE TENANTS.

FREE TENANTS.	ACREAGE.		TOTAL ACREAGE.
	FREE.	BOND.	
JEKVLL, John (tenant of part of the demesne lands, 1462.) MADOUR, Elizabeth. REPON, Robert.	18. 0. 0. 1 tenement. 1 tenement. & 26. 0. 0.	— — —	18. 0. 0. 1 tenement. 1 tenement. & 26. 0. 0.

	ACREAGE.		
	FREE.	BOND.	TOTAL ACREAGE.
BOND TENANTS. (Holding in a few cases FREE LAND, which therefore became SOILED LAND).			
A'GATE, John.		tenement	
ALEYN, Robert.		1½ "abb "	
ALONDAYE, Richard.		rent id.	
ATHEATH, ATTE HEYTHE, HEATH, etc.			
Adam,		3. 1. 20.	3. 1. 20.
Alicia.		3. 0.	3. 0.
Thomas.		10. 1. 0.	14. 3. 0.
(N.B. the holdings of this family of Atheath consist largely of bruey).	4. 2. 0.		
BAKER, Robert.			
BEEST, BEST, Robert.	2. 0. 0.	4. 2. 0.	6. 2. 0.
BENYNGTON, John.		2. 1. 0.	2. 1. 0.
BETER, Clement.		30. 1. 10.	30. 1. 10.
BLACKMAN, Adam.		2. 0.	2. 0.
" John, of South Repps.		5. 1. 0.	5. 1. 0.
BLOFFELD, BLOWFELD, John.		3. 0.	3. 0.
" Thomas.		4. 0. 0.	4. 0. 0.
BRANTE, Margaret, Tenement of.		6. 1. 10.	6. 1. 10.
" Richard, & Roger his brother Tenement of		tenement.	
" William.		tenement.	
BRAYE, Edward.		3. 1. 20.	3. 1. 20.
BROWN, Roger, Tenement of, & Wm. PAYS.	1. 0.	1. 0. 0.	1. 1. 0.
CLARKE, John, <i>de Mole</i> (<i>molenindo</i> , of the mill).		tenement.	
COLLINGSON, John.		2. 30.	2. 30.
		1. 3. 20.	1. 3. 20.
		& "piece of	

BOND TENANTS.	FREE.	BOND.	TOTAL ACREAGE.
LORD, In the hands of the.			
MARCHALL, MARSHALL, John.		21. 0. 10.	21. 0. 10.
MERVETT, John.		14. 3. 10.	14. 3. 10.
MARTYN, Adam.		1. 0.	1. 0.
MOUNDS, MUNDES, Robert.		21. 3. 20.	21. 3. 20.
NEWNAM, Simon.		3. 13.	3. 13.
OLDEBARLEY, Thomas (besides much land "formerly Oldebarleys.")		1. 10.	1. 0.
OLYVER, Robert, purchased 10a. of the free lands of John Resham.	10. 0. 0.	2. 2. 20.	2. 2. 20.
PACKEMAN, Nicholas.			10. 0. 0.
" William.	2. 0. 0.	11. 1. 0.	13. 1. 0.
	— 2. 0.	1 "abbut"	
PALMER, John.		2. 1. 30.	2. 3. 30.
PAYEZ, PAYS, John.	— 1. 20.	12. 2. 30.	13. 0. 10.
PESTELL, heirs of William, render 2d.		7. 3. 30.	7. 3. 30.
POUNDER, PUNDER, etc., Edmund, (some of the holdings endorsed "now John's.")	—	—	—
POWLE, POUL, Robert.	1. 0. 0. ¹⁶	45. 0. 20.	46. 0. 20.
		3 "abb"	
		Breonysyerde	
		id.	
		Sandlakes	
		yerde id.	
		13. 0. 30.	13. 0. 30.

PRATTE, Thomas.	—.	2.	0.	2.	3.	30.	2.	3.	30.
PURKE, William.		9.	16.	9.	0.	16.	9.	2.	16.
PURSER, John.		—.	0.	—.	1.	0.	—.	1.	0.
REDE, Symon.		1.	20.	1.	1.	20.	1.	1.	20.
REFFHAM or RESSHAM, John.									
RICHARD, son of William, heirs of, render 2d.									
ROPE, ROPER, William.									
ROUGHT, ROWTE, Nicholas.									
SAMUEL son of MABEL, renders 4d.									
SELONDE, William, renders ½d.									
SKEYNSBORUGH, Robert.									
SMITH, SMYTH, Adam.									
William, (He also occurs as William Snyythe, "of the mill").									
SNAK, Geoffrey & Ada the widow.									
SPARKE, Walter, (some holdings "with Adam Martyn").									
STROPPE, John, renders 6d.									
the heirs of, render 4d.									
WAKE, Richard.									
Robert.									
WELL, Richard, "of Monesle."									

17. Probably 54a. See end of table.

BOND TENANTS.	FREE.	BOND.	TOTAL ACREAGE.
WODE, Robert, "clerk," Chantry Land, part of House of Methewolde. Also tenement of ROBERT THE CHAPLAIN.	8. 0. 0.	1 tenement.	8. 0. 0.
WOODROFFE, Nicholas.		— 2. 0.	— 2. 0.
WORTES, WURTES, William, (tenant of part of the demesne lands, 1462).		3. 2. 20.	3. 2. 20.
WYSKYN, Nicholas.		— 3. 0.	— 3. 0.
Tenants unnamed (4).		1. 2. 0.	1. 2. 0.
Total Acreage	78. 3. 30.	444. 1. 12½.	523. 1. 2½.
The free and soiled land in the Rental totals 132. 3. 30., so we may conclude that the acreage of John Resham's free-holding was 54 acres, which would make the totals as follows:	132. 3. 30.	444. 1. 12½.	577. 1. 2½.
N.B. Land "in the sea" totals.	2. 2. 0.	140. 2. 34.	143. 0. 34.

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BETWEEN 30-50a.	BETWEEN 20-30a.	BETWEEN 10-20a.	BETWEEN 10-5a.	UNDER 5a.
METHEWOLDE, 46.3.30. POWLE, 36.3.32½ KYTELING, 35.2.0. GOTHEMONDE, 32.0.20. RAM, 30.3.0.	OGOT, 28.2.0. DERKYN, 25.3.20. WRENTYNG, 25.1.0. HYLLE, 23.3.20. DRAWDYSCHE, 23.3.0. KEEP, 21.2.0. FOWLE, 21.0.23. DRORVE, 21.0.0. POTY, 21.0.0. ONY, 20.0.3. YATEHOWSE, 20.0.0.	BRYKKE, 17.2.30. GRYM, 17.1.20. TRAMPLECAKE, 16.0.30. DAMHOWSE, 13.0.30. FORROLDE, 12.3.20. TOWLE, 12.0.30. COWTYNGE, 12.0.10. SPELTYNGE, 11.2.20. PETER BLAKE, 11.2.10. PALMER, 11.1.10. PAGAN THE MERCHANT, 11.0.0. GODDE, 10.1.0.	AYLWARDE, 9.2.0. COWTYNGE, 9.2.0. R. SMYTH, 8.1.0. ROOKE, 8.0.0. WM. GONELD, 7.2.0. ROK, 7.0.30. BONYNG, 6.3.20. GERVAC, of the Priest, 6.3.0. BOYE, 6.1.0. PYTTMAN, 5.2.20. CURLE, 5.0.0.	GROME, 4.1.0. P. BUCKE, 4.0.0. COLE, 3.3.0. CROWE, 3.3.0. WALTER, son of Maud 3.1.20. WM. LESSE, 3.0.0. MYNTON, 3.0.0. H. SMYTHE, 3.0.0. CANNYNG, 2.3.0. WM. TRUSSELL, 2.0.0. ELMM', 1.3.10. HERFRAYE, 1.3.0. HUGH REDE, 1.3.0. SAML. BOTILDES- SONE, 1.2.0. EDEN MORN, 1.1.10. SAML. son of MABEL, 1.1.0. HAMPTON, 1.0.29. GODWYN, 1.0.0.

¹⁸. Tenements "in the sea" or without stated acreage are omitted.

BETWEEN 30-50a.	BETWEEN 20-30a.	BETWEEN 10-20a.	BETWEEN 10-5a.	UNDER 5a.
				R. SPLENTYNG, 1.0. 0.
				TATTAN, 1.0. 0.
				BROKE, —3. 0.
				R. CHELCY, —3. 0.
				ALAN MASTE, —2.20.
				ROGER, son of
				AGNES, —2. 0.
				SKOTTS, formerly,
				—2. 0.
				ROBERT THE
				CHAPLAIN, —1. 0.

ACREAGE OF PERSONAL HOLDINGS.

OVER 50a.	BETWEEN 30-50a.	BETWEEN 20-30a.	BETWEEN 10-20a.	UNDER 10a.
2.	3.	2.	9.	48. (including 6 holdings of 1-2 acres, and 16 holdings of less than 1a.)

COURT ROLLS, 1493-1499.

The later Court Rolls contain longer, fuller and more interesting entries than do the earlier ones, and this chapter may well conclude with a selection of typical extracts from those for 1493-1499.

Amongst the tenants owing suit in these years to the Court of Gimingham we find the name of no less a personage than Sir John Paston, knight. Illustrious as the Pastons became at the height of their prosperity, it is none the less a fact that in origin they were certainly tenants of *bondland*, and quite possibly actually *bondmen* of this manor.

Another tenant occurring in these Rolls is the Abbess of Brusyard, who held land in South Repps (which afterwards became a small manor), besides a few scattered strips in other parts of the Soke, and neighbourhood. Although there were no fewer than sixty-four male Franciscan foundations in England and Wales, there were only four Convents of Poor Clares or Minoresses, of which Brusyard in Suffolk was one.¹ Brusyard was founded in 40 Edward III. and superseded a College of Priests which had been established there since 1293. A few years later, in 51 Edward III., an inquisition is directed to discover if recent benefactions to these Minoresses are to the damage of the king.²

The Inquisition took place at Norwich on Monday next before the feast of St. Barnabas, 51 Edward III., John atte Hethe being the escheator, and the sworn jury consisting of Richard de Reppes, Wm. de Brygham, James —, John Cook, Wm. de Irlond, John de Bekerton, Roger de Knebord, Nich^r. Yunge, Roger Pyxston, Wm. Jolyf, Wm. Freysman, and John de Bokenham. It was their duty to discover if it would be to the king's damage "if he should grant to Sir Wm. de Wychyng-ham, knight, [of Antingham], Sir Nichs. Germmon, knight, and Roger de Wolferton licence to grant to the abbess and sisters of the Order of the Minoresses of Brusyerd, the manor of Hargham, and the messuage and 160 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture and 20s. of rent in South Reppys, North Reppys, Crowemer, Thorpe and Geme-

1. The others were at Aldgate, London, and at Waterbeach and Denny, Cambs.

2. *I.Q.D.*, File 390, No. 18, and *Pat. Roll*, 1 Ric. II., pt. v., m. 57, for confirmation of the same.

hingham, to have and to hold [etc.] in part satisfaction of the promise that the king had made to the abbess to hold lands to the value of £40 per annum, unless the lands were held in chief." The jury find that the manor of Hargham is held of Wm. de Morlee's manor of Hockham and is worth 60s.

The messuage and 150 acres of land, 10 acres of pasture [etc.] are held of the Duke of Lancaster, as of his manor of Gimingham, by fealty and by the rent of 7s. 3d., and two comings yearly to his Court of Gimingham; and that the 10 acres of land are held of Wm. de Erlham by fealty and the rent of 18d. per annum, the same Wm. holding "beyond" of the Duke of Lancaster.

The 3 acres of meadow are held of the heirs of Roger Grymyng (?) as of the manor of Thorpe by fealty and by the rent of 4d., and it is worth nothing by the year beyond outgoings.

Altogether the land, meadow and pasture in South Repps and its neighbourhood are worth 100s.

The Abbess of Brusyard was thus quite an important land-holder in the Soke, and the Court Rolls often contain allusions to her. The Screen in Trimmingham Church bears a permanent witness to Minorite influence in the locality, for upon it is painted a figure of St. Clare of Assisi, a very unusual saint to find represented in an English village Church.

The Convent of Brusyard was evidently popular with the knightly families of North Norfolk, for in 1373, Alice de Reppes was a nun there, and in 1422 Sir Simon de Felbrigge, K.G., left an annuity of 13s. 4d. to his daughter Anne "a nun at Brusyerd."

- m. 1. **Court with the leet held at Gemyngham on the Monday after the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 8 Henry VII. [A.D. 1493].**³

Edward Cooke, of Bradfeld, clerk, was summoned by John Walteres, late of Bradfeld, for the sum of 14s. 11d., for which sum the said Cooke had been surety for the Prior (unnamed) of the Monastery of Cokeford.⁴

3. *Court Rolls*, General series. Bundle 103. No. 1,421.

4. The Priory of Cokesford or Coxford, in the parish of East Rudham, was found *tempus* Stephen, by John de Caineto, Querceto or Cheyney, for Austin Canons. The Priory held land in several parts of Norfolk, including Thorpe Market, adjoining the Soke of Gimingham. Sir Robert de Ufford gave them the mill there, and his widow Cecilia (daughter and co-heir of Robert de Valoines), released her right to the pool and fishery to the prior William de Hempton, about 10 Edward II. (See Blomefield, Vol. VII., pp. 153-155).

Other pleas of debt between:—

James Burgeys of Swafeld, and William atte Wode, "gentilman."

Clement Gogyll and James Fode, late of Southreppes, Robert Repon, late of Gemyngham and John Tram.

Adam Hoberd of Gemynghym, and Robert Williamson and William Gerveys.

Thomas Brownyng and John Norfolk, the younger.

Cecily, late the wife of John Clerk, late of Monesle, "shipman," comes and does fealty for one and a half acres of bond land with one cottage built thereon, which were lately held conjointly with the said John Clerk, as appears in the court held there on the Thursday after the feast of St. Mathew, 20 Edward IV. [A.D. 1480].

[enclosure.] Margery Mathewe, late wife of Robert Mathewe, formerly wife of Thomas Blofeld, made a fine for a division to be placed between the marsh of the same Margery, and the marsh of John Wode, in Somerestesewe in Tremyngham.

[.] Margery Sybson, late wife of Richard Sybson, gives a fine for a division to be placed between the meadow of the same Margery, and the meadow of Robert Wortes the younger (formerly of John Collynsson) in a certain place abutting upon Monesleebeek in Trunche.

[.] John Webster, late of Rughton, now dwelling in Rughton, gave a fine for licence to have one enclosure of 24 hurdles to put therein manure, only, for his own land next adjoining his messuage, formerly of Robert Calke, bondman of the lord, in Northreppes; on the condition that he will not elsewhere raise [another] for that purpose within that lordship, nor overburden the field nor the common there, to the hurt of the lord or his tenants.

The lord granted to Henry Pecok of Northreppes, and Cecily, his wife, late wife of John Freres, late of Northreppes, and their heirs, two acres of bond land (whereof one and a half acres of land lie in the field of Northreppes, which formerly the said John Freres, on his deathbed, surrendered into the hands of the lord to the use of Nicholas Blofeld, then a bond tenant) to the use of the said Cecily, who did not come to take the said land from the hands of the lord. To hold to the said Henry and Cecily, their heirs and assigns, for the term of their lives and after their deaths, remainder to Isabel, Margery and Joan, daughters and next heirs of the said John Freres, and their heirs, by fine therefor then made.

Adam Albou, of Paston, and Alice his wife, surrender into the hands of the lord, two acres of bond land, lying in the field of Paston, to the use of Richard Cok, of Paston, and Joan his wife, their heirs and assigns; to hold by the rod,⁵ at the will of the lord.

Richard Arcall, of Paston, and Emma his wife, surrender into the hands of the lord, one acre of bond land lying at Shordygatewey, in Paston, between the land, late of William Barker, on the north side, and the land of Robert Bunggey on the south side, to the use of John Hornyngtoft, of Paston, "botcher," and Alice his wife: to hold by the rod, at the will of the lord.

The same Richard and Emma surrender into the hands of the lord half an acre of bond land at Shordygatewey, in Paston, between the land, late of Robert Buggey, on the north side, and the land, late of William Barker, on the south side; to hold by the rod, at the will of the lord.

To this court comes Richard Herman, of Paston, and acknowledges himself to owe to John Honyngtoft 9s.

Gemyngham Jury:—

Thomas Garlek.

Walter Spark.

Robert Gogyll.

Adam Seyne.

Adam Hoberd.

William Pakeman.

William Purke.

John Marchall.

Who present that:—

Robert Mannyng made an assault upon John Sheppard.

Margery Pounder, late wife of Edmund Pounder, be distrained to do fealty for one messuage built in Gemyngham, with 40 acres, $1\frac{1}{2}$ roods of bond land "heth, sel't lannodt"⁶ in Gemyngham, Tremyngham, and Monesle, which she held conjointly with the said Edmund.

5. "From a formal point of view, villain tenure by custom obtained its specific character and its name from a symbolical act performed in open Court by the steward; a rod was handed over to the new holder by the lord's representative, and a corresponding entry made in the roll of the Court. Hence the expression, *tenerere per virgam aut per rotulum Curie*."—Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 173.

6. Probably this should read: 40 acres $1\frac{1}{2}$ roods of bond land heath, and in selions. What "lannodt" means, I cannot explain.

Tremyngham Jury:—

William Jerveys.
 Nicholas Pays.
 Robert Gryme.
 Robert Jerveys.
 William Brant.
 Adam Blakeman.

Who present that:—

Thomas Garlek sold to Alice atte Heythe, widow, half an acre of bond heath land in Tremyngham, without licence.

Richard Wake surrendered into the hands of the lord, one rood of bond land "sel," to the use of Margery, his daughter.

Margery Mathewe had not cleansed the common water-course next to Clappyngdam in Tr. [Trimingham].

Wiott Mabyrle, of Sydestrond, called the chaplain of Sydestronde "false perjurer."

Adam Hoberd has not yet repaired the king's highway at Gantesyate, as he was ordered.

William Emsson made an encroachment with a hedge on the high road at Culberes in Tr.

Sydestronde Jury:—

Nicholas Spylman.
 Thomas Crabbe.
 John Mundes.
 Robert Groede (?).
 Wyott Maberly.
 Richard Wattes.

Who present that:—

John Mundes sold three roods of bond land, "sel," in Sydestronde, to a certain Thomas Carre, without licence.

Robert Tram assaulted William Johnsson.

Nicholas Wyskyn is a common malefactor on his neighbour's corn, with his horses, pigs, and other animals, and also with geese and goslings.

Trunche Jury:—

Thomas Symondes.
 John Gogyll.
 John Sutton.
 Robert Hornyngtoft.
 Richard Beaffeld.
 Thomas Brownyng.

Richard Hewes.
 Clement Gogyll.
 Roger Bates.
 Robert Wytes.
 William Prymrose.
 John Wortes.

Who present that:—

[Infringements
 of the Assize of
 Bread.]

William Egges is a common baker of bread, and broke the assize.

Robert Toppes, of Northwalsham, brought black and white bread, and sold it in the precincts of this lete.

Clement Wortes ought to repair a certain way next to the meadow of the lord the King in Trunch.

Michael Howseygoo and Richard Howes have not repaired the common way towards their messuage.

Thomas Gryme and Thomas Smyth have not repaired the common way from the west side of the church of Trunch.

William Howes, Nicholas Thaxste, and Edward Pylgryme, clerk, ought to repair the common way leading from the messuage of the said William Howes, up to Hikkesgrene.

Thomas Gryme stopped up a certain common way out of the street called Fenbewestrete, leading to the church of Trunch, with one stile newly made.

Richard Cook, Robert Norfolk, Robert Grome, John Powleslee, John Pye, Thomas Albion, Michael the servant, Thomas Gryme, Peter Prymrose, and James Gilhowe, have dwelt [in Trunch] for a year and a day, and have not been in the King's titheing [i.e. have not served as tithing men].

Southreppes Jury:—

John Poull.
 Robert Willyamson.
 Richard Douglas, the elder.
 James Flyght.
 Nicholas Bryght.
 Robert Thrower.
 Thomas Sweyn.
 John Benyngton.
 William Newman.
 Richard Douglas, the younger.
 Robert Bateman.
 William Laxston.
 Robert Brese.

Who present that:—

William Trusbut has not repaired the king's highway at Woderevesbrig, in Southreppes.

The abess of Brusyerd has not purged the watercourse within her close called "Sir John's Clos-Southrs." [Southreppes] and from thence to Southwode.

John Waryns and Stephen Horne have overburdened the common heath at Heygate with all their and many other animals, more than their tenure allows.

Nicholas Thaxste is a common malefactor with one horse in the field of Suthreppes, to the injury of the grain.

Robert Brese tethered his horses in the king's highway.

Robert Brese ploughed up with his plough at Crabbes-crosse, from le Crossehill, so adding to his land.

John atte Wode "wigenar" of Southreppes (entry not complete).

Northreppes Jury:—

William Rugge.

Robert Rugge.

John Colby.

Robert Sowtre.

Richard Marche.

John Grey.

John Cutlak.

Robert Cuttelak.

Geoffrey Potter.

Thomas Turwyn.

Nicholas Marche.

Who present that:—

John Herward, gentleman, stopped up a common way at Skuttynglane in Northreppes, with a newly made ditch, and took away divers ancient boundary stones.

The said John Herward, gentleman, stopped up another highway leading from Thorpmarket to Crowmere, at Skuttynges pytte, with a newly made ditch.

The said John Herward, "gentilman," built a certain fold within that lordship, at Northreppes, of four dozen hurdles, without licence, to the great derogation of the King's fold. [The erection of a fold was a manorial perquisite, and it was an infringement of the spirit of common agriculture for a private holder of land to fold his sheep, thereby depriving the common pasture of the manure].

[overburdening
the common
pasture.]

Margaret atte Hoo, otherwise Howes, of Southreppes, widow, kept a dog, to the hurt of the sheep, etc., within the field of Northreppes.

John Howes and John Grey, the younger, are common malefactors with cows and many beasts.

"Jugga," the wife of the said John Howes, is a common scold and sower of discord between her neighbours.

John Clerk, of Southreppes, and Joan his wife, have not yet laid open the obstruction which they made in a certain via porall ["purilly way"] at Sowgate in Northreppes, by which the capital pledges of Northreppes were prevented from having their "porrall," as of old time they were wont to have, to the last leet.

Nicholas Colly and James Denys have dwelt within the precinct of this lete for a year and a day.

Jury of Free Men:—

Thomas Symondes.

John Gogyll.

John Sutton.

Robert Rugge.

James Flyght.

Richard Duglas, the elder.

Robert Brese.

William Toppys.

John Whythede.

Robert Honygtoft.

Thomas Brownyng.

William Pratte.

Richard Beaffeld.

Who present that:—

Robert Aleyn of Southreppes, unjustly cut down small oak trees, within the King's wood of Southwode.

22. 2.

Court General held at Gemyngham, Wednesday, 13th April, 11 Henry VII. (A.D. 1496).

The jury say that:—

James Burgeys unjustly overburdened the common pasture of Swafeld.

The same James has not made the ditch, nor kept up his fence between the common aforesaid and the field of Swafeld, by which cattle have done damage in the same field.

Robert Pylgryme and Robert Albon, of Swafeld, unjustly amerced the said James Burgeys in the turne (*in turno*)

infringement
of the manorial
rights of
Trymyngham.]

of the lord the Earl of Suffolk, at Bakturne, without this lordship, for enclosing the said common pasture of Swafeld where the lord of this manor, time out of mind, etc., has had and enjoyed the waste of that common pasture, to the great derogation of this lordship, etc.

Poaching.]

John Russell⁷ of Moneslee, clerk, was a hunter within the warren of the lord the King, at Moneslee, Trymyngham, and Sydestronde, with greyhounds, and other hounds, and there killed a hare. Therefore the matter is referred to the King's council. (*ideo ad cons' Dni*).

Thomas Bernard, of Northwalsham, has not yet repaired an oven within his messuage, formerly Swanton's in Antyngham, as he was commanded at divers courts.

[Stray animals
in the Manor
Pound.]

Robert Wortes, the younger, late mower [messor] of this lordship, certifies to the court that he has taken, within the lordship, those twelve sheep, whereof six were ewes, and six were hoggets, and two mares, one black and one white, which were taken about the feast of All Saints, 10 Henry VII [A.D. 1494], and they remained in the custody of the same Robert for a year without challenge, etc; whereof two ewes died last winter, and there remain ten sheep.

Court held at Gemyngham, Monday after the feast of St. Botolph the Abbot, 11 Henry VII (A.D. 1496).

[Enclosure.]

Richard Swene, of Southreppes, pays a fine for placing bounds between his land, and the land of Edward Poregolde, in a place called Fengate, in the same.

Thomas Brownyng, mower of this manor, certifies that he has [entry incomplete].

m. 3.

Court General held at Gemyngham, Monday after the feast of St. Michael 13 Henry VII (A.D. 1497).

Pleas of debt, and of unjust detention of chattles, etc:—

Wyot Maberly, of Sydestronde, and Nicholas Pylgryme, chaplain.

7. John Russell, appointed rector by the king as Duke of Lancaster, 1493. Clerical poachers seem fairly common at this date! The matter was referred to the King's council, because Russell had disobeyed the Statute of Richard II.: "That no Priest nor other Clerk, not advanced to 10l. a year, shall have or keep any Greyhound, nor other Dog to hunt; nor shall they use Ferrets, Hayes, Nets, Hare-pipes nor cords, nor other Engines, for to take and destroy Deer, Hares, nor Conies, etc., upon pain of one year's imprisonment."—(See Spelman's *Answer to the Apology for Archbishop Abbot*, p. 115).

AN EAST ANGLIAN SOKE.

William Laxston, of Southreppes, chaplain, and Richard Blakeman.

Suitors, whose suits are respited:—

The Abbess of Brusyerd, for her lands and tenements in Southreppes.

Sir John Paston, knight, for lands and tenements in Paston and Trunch.

Richard Bokkyng, "gentilman," tenant of lands late of Henry Rows, for his lands and tenements in Mondslee.

Gemyngham Jury:—

Thomas Garlek.

Robert Gogyll.

Walter Spark.

Adam Seyve.

John Marchall.

Thomas Bour.

Adam Horberd.

William Pakeman.

Richard Albon.

Who present that:—

William Beaffeld, Thomas Bowyer, and Richard Albon, made waste in their bond messuages and tenements in Gemyngham, in regard to roofing their houses. (*ut cooptur' domorum*).

Tremyngham Jury:—

William Bryant.

William Jerveys.

Robert Gryme.

Stephen Ropere.

Nicholas Pakeman.

William Emsson.

Thomas atte Heyth.

Adam Blakeman.

Robert Gerveys.

Who say that:—

William Roper, late of Tremyngham, sold to Stephen Ropere, his son, twelve acres of bond land "sel" and "heath," with a moiety of one messuage thereon, without licence. Therefore they are seized etc.

The said Stephen Roper elected to the office of "wigenar."

Sydestronde Jury:—

Richard Wattes.
 Nicholas Spilman.
 Wyot Maberlee.
 John Mathewe.
 Thomas Mathewe.
 Robert Mathewe.
 Robert Crowe.
 John Mundes.
 William Skynnere.
 Thomas Carr.
 Robert Skynnere.
 John Bowyer.
 Robert Brymley.

[section of
 tement to fill
 t office of
 v kner.] They elect the house of Calk [*domu' Calke*] in the same,
 to perform the office of wigenar this year, whereof John
 Mundes, with his parcener, holds the said house, and so the
 same John Mundes is sworn to undertake the said office.

Northreppes Jury:—

John Colby.
 Robert Rugg.
 Roger Marche.
 Thomas Toly.
 John Grey, the younger.
 John Bisshopp.
 William Rugge.
 Robert Sautree.
 Robert Cutlak.
 John West.
 Nicholas Marche.

Who present that:—

John Herwarde, "gentilman," overburdened the field of Northreppes with more cattle [*averiiis*] at the open time, than he ought to keep by his tenure; therefore he is in mercy.

Henry Quarles, farmer of the King's coney warren, kept more rabbits in the warren than there ought to be, so that they consumed and devastated the tenants' grain.

Robert Payn, overburdened the field there at the open time.

Hulver⁸ Jury:—

Roger Damyot.
 Thomas Holle.
 Nicholas Asshwell.
 John Neve.
 Robert Warde.
 Robert Parke.
 Thomas Whitehede.
 John Ropere.

Who say that:—

John Symondes, of Suffeld, and Thomas Hoberde, of the same, with others of the vill of Suffeld did not permit Roger Damyot, bond tenant of the lord the King, to occupy and of new repair [*de novo repand'*] his ditch, lying next to the common of Suffeld, held of the King's manor of Gemyng-ham, but the same John and Thomas unjustly occupy that land claiming that it is parcel of the pasture of the said common of Suffeld.

[Election of
Wickner.]

The jury elect the tenants of the land and messuage, late of ——— Swanton, and afterwards of ——— Mekehill whereof Thomas Bernard is tenant, to undertake the office of "wigenar" this year.

Southreppes Jury:—

Richard Duglas, the elder.
 James Flyght.
 John Whytede.
 Robert Bateman.
 John Poull.
 Nicholas Bryght.
 William Toppes.
 Richard Duglas, the younger.
 Adam Willyamson.
 Thomas Sweyn.
 Robert Brese.
 Robert Threwer.
 Thomas Porter.
 John Benyngton.
 Simon Ryssburgh.

8. "In the 3rd year of Edward III., John, earl Warren, had an homage, or lordship [in Antingham], valued at 10*l. per ann.*, which King Henry II. gave to Hamelin Plantagent, earl Warren and Surrey, belonging to his lordship of Gimingham, at a place here called *Hulver*."—Blomefield, Vol. VIII., p. 80.

Who say that:—

John Herward, of Southreppes, "gentilman," and William Trusbut, have not yet repaired the common lane called Steykes-lane: they are to repair the same before the next court with the leet: John Herward still stops up the said lane with a hedge, newly erected.

William Beaffeld, William Pakeman, Adam Hoberd, Nicholas Wodeford, chaplain, Richard Cooke, John Herman, William Hawtyn, and Richard Hemmyngs, owe suit to the General court.

Mondslee Jury:—

Simon Rede, William Pratte.

William Smyth.

Nicholas Aleyns.

William Hermere.

John Pratte.

William Clerke.

Robert Warde.

Thomas Newnham.

Edward Collyns.

Who say that:—

Clement Beter has not repaired the highway, towards his land at Brodsloth in Mondslee.

William Hermere, Clement Beter, John Rede, and John Larke, keep their pigs unringed, so that they grub up their neighbours' soil.

Trunch Jury:—

John Sutton.

Thomas Brownyng.

Robert Wortes, the elder.

Richard Howes.

Clement Tetill.

Clement Wortes.

Robert Hornyngtoft.

William Kebyng [Kevyng?].

William Bates.

Roger Bates.

Clement Kyng.

John Wortes.

Who say that:—

John Gogyll, of Trunch, died seized of 60 acres of land whereof 20 acres were bond heathland, 10 acres bond field

land, and 30 acres were bond wood land and marsh land, in Trunch; and that Clement Gogyll is his son and next heir, and is of full age, who did not come. Therefore the land is seized, etc.

Paston Jury:—

John Kyng.
Richard Arcall.
John Hoberde.
Richard Herman.
Clement Arcall.
Clement Beter.
William Beter.
John Batle.
Adam Albon.

Who say on their oath that they have nothing to present.

Court held at Gemyngham, Thursday after the feast of SS. Simon and Jude 13 Henry VII. (A.D. 1497).

[Liability to forfeiture owing to neglect of messuages.]

The mower of this manor is commanded to warn Thomas Bernard, of Northwalsham, Margaret Waryns, of Paston, widow, the tenant of the lands late of Henry Howes, of the same, John Marchall, of Gemyngham, Adam Hoberd, of the same and Nicholas Smyth, of Northreppes, to be present at the next court, to show cause why they should not forfeit to the King, the lord of this manor, the messuages which they hold in the manor, in bondage, for not repairing the said messuages, etc.

[Payment of respite fines by houses, and not by individuals.]

Fines (4d. from each "house") received for respite of suit to the next court.

Gemyngham:—Kepe, Ogoth, Ony, Drury, Derlying [?Derkyn], Palmere, Aylewarde, Poull, the Hill, Gothemonde, Peter Blake, Drawdyssh, Ram, and Forwalde.

Southreppes:—Wyrine, Lorde, Dawe, Hoberd, Hervy of Blothous, Calke, and moiety of the house of Waker (2d.).

Northreppes:—Carewn, Southwode.

Sydestronde:—Wallokclerk, Cowgate, Nicholas Prest, Calke, Ayrssh, Spilman, Warine Prest.

Tremyngham:—Whynnell, Westgate, Cokkyng, Broun, Pylhowe, Godewin Prest, Chelsy, Anounde [?], Walter Edeson, Culver, Pyroun and Whippyng.

Hulver:—Whynstan, and John Thomsson.

Trunch:—Poull, Ape, Plomere, Hill, Rust, Grymme, Gryme, Betewaryn Inggylbright, and Choys.

Mondslee:—Gryffen Bryg, Norwyn, Clerk, Breeme, Shipman, Collewyn, Attehill, Whyght, Cole, Blakeman, Counteman, Rotolf, Stalke, Fyss, Bokeman, Whynstan, Cary, Greyve.

Paston:—Syryk Howard, Elwyn, Atte Mer, Boonde, Atte Hill, Aslak, Grys, Idelker, Berde, Roger Clerk, Alan Clerk, Herman de Kyrkegate, Dybald, Fleggar, and the moiety of the houses of Osmonde, Asketyll, Joye, and Richard Kyng, (each 2d.).

Court Leet held at Gemyngham, on Tuesday after the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist 14 Henry VII. (A.D. 1499).

Gemyngham Jury:—

Walter Spark.
Adam Seyve.
Robert Gogyll.
Robert Powle.
Thomas Bower.

Who say that:—

William Ponder, is of the age of twelve years, and more, and has dwelt within the precincts of this leet for one year and a day and more and ought to be sworn on the tithing.

Robert Draper made great waste in his bond tenement in Gemyngham.

Monesle Jury:—

William Prat.
William Smyth.
Simon Rede.
Nicholas Aleyn.
William Hermer.
Robert Warde.
John Purcer.
Thomas Newman.
William Clerk.
Thomas Taliour.

Who say that:—

Simon Rede has not yet repaired his bond tenement at Pytgate, in Monesle.

Robert Wurtles of Trunch, the younger, is a malefactor with his cattle in his neighbours' corn, in Monesle.

Similar presentment of John Kyng, of Paston.

[Infringement
of the manorial
rights of
Gimingham.]

John Kyng, bond tenant, unjustly presented William Hermer, of Monesle, without this court, against the ordinance, both in courts temporal and spiritual, for matters determinable in this court.

Margery Colynson made unjust distraint upon her neighbours, of certain cords called "ropis," and unlawfully took and carried away the same.

Sydestrond Jury:—

John Atwoode, gentleman.

Thomas Tram.

Richard Ponyour.

Nicholas Skylman. [?Spylman].

Richard Wattes.

John Mondes.

Who say that:—

Wiotte Maburle assaulted Geoffrey Ovy (Oby?).
Geoffrey assaulted Wiotte with his fists.

Robert Gryme, with his cows and horses, made waste in the corn of the lord's tenants in Sydestronde.

[Election of a
tenement to
perform the
office of
wickner.]

They elect the house of Spilman to perform the office of "wiconer," this year, and William Skynner is tenant thereof.

Northreppes Jury:—

Robert Rugge.

William Rugge.

John Colby.

John Greye.

Thomas Toly.

Roger Marche.

Nicholas Marche.

John West.

Robert Cuttelak.

John Cuttelak.

Robert Sawtre.

Who say that:—

John Cuttelak made an unjust americiament upon Nicholas Colby, the King's "wigenar" in Northreppes, in the Sacrist's court (*cur' sacre'*) of Bury St. Edmunds, held at Aylesham, for taking a horse, which the same Nicholas took as a distraint for 3d. rent.

Thomas Greye, the younger, is a malefactor with his cattle in his neighbours' corn.

[Infringement
of the manorial
rights of
Gimingham.]

William Hoker, of Cromere, and Cecily, his wife and Richard Howard, of Aylsham, have not repaired the common way at North Heith in Northreppes, as they ought to have done.

John Herward, gentleman, continues to keep a fold for 100 sheep where no one ought so to keep them.

Jury for [Place illegible (?Trunch)].

Thomas Symondes.

Thomas Brownyng.

Thomas Coly.

John Sutton.

William Topi.

Robert Gryme.

William Pratt.

Robert Wattes.

Nicholas Pays.

Richard Holls.

Richard Poneor.

Who say that:—

John Heward erected a gate next Stokes Lane, where none was before.

William Hermer, of Monesle, in full court, abused William Kyng, of Paston, with many malicious and strong words, to the great disturbance of all the tenants there.

Southreppes Jury:—

John Powle.

William Tops.

John Whithede.

Robert Thrower.

Richard Duglas.

John Benyngton.

Simon Rysburgh.

Thomas Porter.

Nicholas Thaxter.

Adam Williamson.

Robert Bateman.

Thomas Swayn.

Who say that:—

Presentment of the following, for not keeping open their enclosures as they ought to do:— Alice Flyght, widow, for the inclosure next the croft of John Harward; John Waryns, for his enclosure next Millecroft; and Nicholas Bryght, for his inclosure at Waurs [?].

John Atwoode, gentleman, has not repaired the common way at Clappyng's Dam.

John Sterlyng made a clay pit next the common way which leads to Kyrkegate.

John Waryns overburdened the field of Southreps, with too many sheep.

Nicholas Thower is a malefactor with one horse and one foal in summer time.

Robert Aleyns, Robert Holland, William Laxton, clerk, Thomas Pegon, and the tenant of the land of Thomas Gryme have not repaired the common way in the south part of the great wood of the lord, called Southwoode.

Alice Flyght, widow, for having her ditch in the croft of John Harward, and the said John Herward, for keeping his ditch too deep near the way which leads to the church, are fined 3s. 4d.

[Strays
impounded.]

Thomas Garleke, deputy of Thomas Tramme, mower of the lord the King, comes and says he has taken one black horse aged three years, and one sorel mare, and three ewes, and two white lambs, within the precincts of this leet, about the feast of St. Gregory, the Pope 13 Henry VII (A.D. 1497-8), and so they remained within the said precincts, in the hands of the mower, without being claimed for a year and a day more.

Trunch Jury:—

Thomas Symonds.

Thomas Brownyng.

John Sutton.

Clement Gogill.

Clement Wuites [Wortes].

Robert Wurtes, the younger.

Richard How.

Robert Wurtes, the elder.

Who present that:—

[Infringement
of the Assize of
Bread.]

Walter Sewell, and William Egges, are common bakers, and have sold white bread within the precincts of this leet.

John Hows, Thomas Hows, and William Swanton, have remained here more than a year and a day and have not served on a jury.

Thomas Prymrose has obstructed a certain common lane which leads from Trunch to Bromholm, with a ditch.

m. 5 Court General held at Gemyngham on Monday next after the feast of St. Luke 15 Henry VII (A.D. 1499).

Northreps Jury:—

William Rugge.
 Richard Rugge.
 John Colby.
 Robert Sawtre.
 Nicholas Marche.
 John Greye.
 Thomas Toly.
 Roger Marche.
 Robert Cuttelak.
 John West.
 Nicholas Colby.

Who present that:—

Robert Toly has not yet repaired the waste done by him, in the house of the tenants of Thurwardes, otherwise called Rayes, nor in a cottage called Smythez at Hillgate; he also cut down timber without licence. He also ploughed up a balk between his land and the highway.

John Herward, gentleman, made default in the tenement of Thomas Custaunce, and had not filled up his ditch at Skuttynges Laane, in the common way leading from Cromer to Thorpmarket.

The tenants of the lands of the tenement of Wellhorner, in Northreps, are unwilling to perform the office of "wiginar."

Jurors of the great inquest:—

William Rugge.
 Thomas Gerleke.
 John Colby.
 Thomas Brownynge.
 Thomas Pegon.
 John Hubberd.
 John Whighede.
 William Tops.
 Richard Duglasse.
 Robert Sawtre.
 Richard Hows.
 Thomas Symondes.

Who present that:—

James Burges, of Swaffeld has overburdened the common

of Swaffeld with too many sheep, according to his rate of tenure.

John Cady, servant, and Master Robert Bradfeld, of Northwalsham, encroached upon the lord's wood called Southwode, and cut down small oaks and "lez hulver" [hollies].

Wiott Maburlee, of "Sedestrond," unjustly cut down thorns and withy growing in the hedge of the King's wood called Kebynges Hegge.

The jury of Paston present that Thomas Gryme on the point of death surrendered into the lord's hands, by Thomas Garleke, bond tenant, in the presence of Thomas Symondes, and John Sutton, 30 perches of bond land "sel," with a cottage built thereon, formerly Howlettes, in paston, and 10 perches of bond land, "selond," late Arcalls, to the use of John Brewster, and Elizabeth Deryng, whom, God willing, he will take to wife, and their heirs.

m. 5d.

Payments for respite of suit till the next Michaelmas term:— The Abbess of Bruesyerd, land in Southreps.

Sir John Paston, knight, land in Paston and Trunch.

Court held on Thursday after the feast of St. Martin the Bishop in Winter 15 Henry VII. (A.D. 1499).

Margaret, late wife of ——— Sawyer, of Norwich, "worsted-weaver" (formerly wife of William Hornyngtoft, without the court, according to the custom of the manor, by John Pekker, substeward of this court, and in the presence of John Hubberd, and William Croft, bond tenants, the aforesaid Margaret having been previously examined) surrendered into the hands of the lord, two acres of bond field land, in the field of Paston, to the use of William Salman and Beatrix, his wife, and their heirs, to hold by the rod, at the will of the lord.

The documents which have been quoted in this chapter only give a glimpse of 15th century life, but the little that they do reveal to us is valuable from the fact that the period was one of great importance to the manor as an institution. At the beginning of the 15th century the manor was still in working order, although it had already begun to decline; at the end of the century it was in a moribund condition. In recapitulation, the process of decay may be traced briefly enough. First came the awful mortality of the Black Death, followed by the Rising of the Peasants in 1381, burning Court Rolls and Manor Houses, and clamouring for enfranchisement, money

wages and the free circulation of the labour market. Then came the partial granting of their demands, too soon followed by an attempt to return to the old evil conditions of bondage. But the seed was sown, and villainage, with its forced labour, was in process of being superseded by a wage-earning labouring class. The demesne lands were leased to a new class of tenant farmer, and the system of open field husbandry began to yield to more modern and practical methods of agriculture. The lease of the demesne lands was followed by that of the Manor House and buildings, in which the lord no longer desired to live. Thus the two essential elements of a medieval manor and of the still older village community were gradually lost, viz., the communal cultivation of its whole area by the lord and his tenants, and the "element of residence" in the central *aula*.

When the Soke of Gimmingham became a feof of the House of Lancaster it was no longer the firmly established and self-supporting manor that it had once been, and as time went on its last vestiges of importance disappeared. In the 16th century its last bondmen were practically all enfranchised, and when the 17th century opened all that remained to be done was for the Duchy of Lancaster to send commissioners to examine the "Scite of the Manor" in order to decide which of the buildings were ruinous beyond repair, and which of them could be profitably *re-edified* as farm premises.

Part II.

THE SOKE IN THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES.

CHAPTER I.

THE LESSEES OF THE MANOR IN TUDOR AND STUART TIMES.

During the Tudor period the manor and demesne lands of Gimingham were leased to a variety of different people. At the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. portions of the demesne were let to John Bretaigne and Phillip Hill, while a few years later Thomas fflichte has a lease of "the meadow above the pond of Clappinge, with the pasture called Grymeward and the fishing in the ponds of Clappingdamme within the lordship of Gimingham."¹

Clapping Dam,
etc.

The Southwells.
(Hen. VIII.
and Eliz.)

In 4 Henry VIII. Francis Southwell, auditor of the Exchequer, was "farmer of the office of Heyward," and he and his family retained their connection with the manor for many years to come. In 30 Elizabeth we find a younger Francis Southwell obtaining a lease of the "scite of the manor of Gymingham, with certain demesne lands, the agistment of the park and the warren" at a rent of £42. 1s. 1d., and seven years later a second lease is granted to him of "parcell of the Manor of Gymingham" with its granges, stables, Dovehouse and Close called "Dovehouseyard," with the meadow, 26 acres of pasture in "le somerfielde," the herbage of parts of the manor, the farm of the corn and of the water-mill and the herbage and pannage of Southwood. The rent in this case was £43 7s. 9d. We find this Francis Southwell figuring as a party to a suit *versus* Anthony Death in 35 Elizabeth, and the Will of "Francis Southwell of Gymingham" was proved at Somerset House in 1585. [13 Windsor].

1. *D. of L. Leases*, Hen. VIII., fols. 14, 28, and 93.

But we must return to the other lessees who held the Manor before Francis Southwell, the younger.

Sir Thomas &
Sir James
Boleyn. (20
Hen. VIII.)

On 16 November, 20 Henry VIII., a lease for twenty-one years of the greater part of the "Scite of the Manor" was granted to Sir Thomas Boleyn, knight, viscount Rocheford (father of Anne Boleyn), and to his brother Sir James Boleyn, knight.²

Edward ffisher
(1 Edw. VI.).

On the expiry of their lease in 1549-50, a certain Edward ffisher became the lessee "by a certain indenture sealed with the Duchy of Lancaster Seal [13 August 1 Edward VI., 1547, which] did demise grante to ferme [and] lett unto one Edward ffisher ye ferme of pcell of the manor of Gimingham with all houses, groundes, stables, lyinge and beinge in the parte of the East of the sd mannor, wth all landes, tenements, medows and pastures [thereto belonginge], with one gardinge lyinge in the p^{te} [part] of the East of the sd mannor. And also one Dufhous wth a certen close called the Dufhous Close, nere the northe myll of Gimingham aforesaid xvj acres and an halfe of pasture called the Somm^r fild ["Somersetsewe" in the Court Rolls,] Together with all worke daies in harvest or pcarys [? *precarii*] called Halms ["Halmers"] or lav . . . [? "Lovebenes"]—Also ye foldage of ye shepe of ye tenntes [tenants] ther to the same demeasne lande belonginge or in Annywise appteyninge, Together wth y^e Agystament [agistment=feed,] of the parke . . . And also of y^e Warren of hares, Conyes and phesants . . . To have and to hold" for forty years "fulle to be ended." The lease is to begin on the expiry of that of "Sir Thomas Bullyn, knight, viconnte Rochefforde and Sir James Bullyn, knight, his Brother," and ffisher is to "yield therefore at the usuall ffeastes of y^e yere" the rent or "ferme" of £33 6s. 8d. "of lawfull money of Inglonde."³

The Chantry.

Edward ffisher thus acquired all the eastern portion of the demesne, and in addition, he held a twenty one years' lease of the Chantry and its lands, at an annual rent of £3⁴.

Directly the Boleyn tenancy ended ffisher took possession, but only in order to convey and sublet the entire property to Peter Rede or Read, of Norwich.

2. *Ibid.*, f. 69.

3. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 94, R. 4.

4. *D. of L. Draft Leases*, 6/68.

Peter Rede.

This Peter Rede was something of a notability, who had received a knighthood "of the Order of Barbary" at the hands of the Emperor Charles V., for his services "at the winning of Tunis, in 1538." He was the son of John Rede, who had been Mayor of Norwich in 1496, and had married Anne, widow of George Duke, of Brampton, Suffolk, and daughter of Sir Thomas Blennerhasset (or Blevcrhasset) of Frenze in Norfolk. He is often called *Sir* Peter Rede, although Queen Elizabeth would never give her sanction to his adoption of a foreign title.

He seems to have lived at Gimingham Hall, and besides holding the lease of all fisher's lands, he was tenant of various other small parcels of land within the Soke, including certain portions of herbage there, and a house "called *le guyldc howse* at Trunche."⁵ Enclosure was very much in fashion at that time, and Peter Rede was responsible for the enclosure of the park of Gimingham, which he broke up into eight fields or closes.

His name occurs frequently in the Duchy of Lancaster Suits of the period, and in the Subsidy Roll for Gimingham, in 5 Edward VI., when he paid 30s. He was evidently responsible for raising and arming men for the royal service if need arose, and Le Neve gives the following list:—

"The names of Thynhytu^{antes} [the inhabitants] of Gymyngham with the harnes and horses ther' made by me William Trusbut and Robert Skyrwytt, the xii of Maye, anno regni Regis Phil. and Mary iiijo and iiijo:—

In primis Mr. Rede and his Serjauntes.

Item Thomas Jowler.

Item Rychard Johnsonc (Jouler & Johnsonc) a harness.

Item Thomas Baron.

Item Jamys Browne.

Item John Gogull [wrongly printed *Bogull*.—
C.M.H.] and Symon his Serjaunt a harnes.

Item Thomas Albon, jun., ar.

Item Edmond Tyttell.

Item Robert Tatyshall, 1.

5. In 21 Eliz., "Domus voc le gild house in Trunche," is leased to Robert Hay at a rent of 6s. 8d.

Item Robert Gryme, a harnes.

Item William Downynge.

Item Rychard Baron.

Rychard Hylle.

iii harnes furnyshed with swordes and dogers and dycher byll for bowes and arowes."⁶

Peter Rede died on 28 December, 1568, in London, and it is stated in the Herald's Visitation that he was buried at St. Sepulchre's without Newgate, but this is a mistake, for he was buried at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, where the small brass to his memory still remains near the High Altar. "His effigies in complete armour is on a brass plate on his stone, which hath a shield at each of the four corners and the following inscription at his feet:—

HERE UNDER LIETH THE CORPS OF PETER REDE ESQUIER, WHO HATH WORTHELY SERVED NOT ONLY HIS PRYNCE AND CUNTRY, BUT ALSO THE EMPEROR CHARLES THE 5, BOTHE AT THE CONQUEST OF BARBARIA AND AT THE SIEGE OF TUNIS, AS ALSO IN OTHER PLACES, WHO HAD GEVEN HYM BY THE SAYD EMPEROUR FOR HIS VALIAUNT DEDES, THE ORDER OF BARBARIA, WHO DIED THE 29TH. OF DECEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD GOD 1568."

Upon the brass are the arms of "Read or Rede, *az.* on a bend wavy *or*, three moor cocks *sab.* in a bordure ingrailed *arg.* pelleté a crescent *erm.* with the following honourable addition given by the Emperour, viz., a canton sinister parted per pale, on the first part two ragged staves in Saltier; on the second a man holding a *caduceus* in his right hand, his left pointing upwards, on his sinister side a sword in pale, with the point downwards, pricked into a Moor's head."⁷

There is a portrait of him in the Guildhall "with a hawk on his fist, and the arms of Rede. Crest, a buck's head armed *or*, collared *arg.* . . . In the top (of the picture) is a little golden statute depicted and A^o 1646. "In Memoriam renovatam," etc."⁸ There is also

6. *Le Neve MS.*, fol. 141, from *N. Erp.*, 66-7.

7. Blomefield, Vol. IV., p. 200.

8. *Ibid.*, pp. 200, 201.

a panel on which is set forth his benefactions to Norwich and a portrait of his wife—"Mrs. Anne Read, widow, wife of Peter Read, esq. in a furred gown holding a book."⁹ His bequests to his native City were munificent—"a faire Salt double Gilt, of the Value of twentie poundes, to be used in the Maiors Houses in Norwich, in the time of their Maioraltie; and he did further give to the Poore of this Cittie, one hundred thirtie three poundes Six Shillinges and eight Pence, to be yearelie distributed by six Poundes, 13s. 4d. untill the whole summe were runne out."¹⁰ He also gave certain houses in St. Giles's as an endowment "for the ringing of the four o'clock and eight o'clock bell" of St. Peter Mancroft for the guidance of travellers."¹¹

Peter Rede's Will¹² is dated 1568, the year of his death, but it does not appear to have been proved until 1581. I conclude that it was lost or mislaid, for in a Duchy Suit in 1574, his widow, Anne Rede states that he died intestate.¹³ Perhaps she concealed the will to suit her own convenience, but in spite of its absence we find her paying, "4*l.* yearly, for provision of meles meat wekely for xii pore men [in the parish of St. Peter Mancroft] according to the Will of Peter Rede, Esq., her husband."¹⁴

Mistress Anne Rede remained tenant of Gimingham manor until her death in 1577, and during that time she frequently went to law in the Duchy Courts over poaching and other local disputes.

She was buried in Norwich, at St. Margaret's Church, where her tomb still remains. "On a brass plate on the top of an altar tomb on the north side of the altar, under the effigies of a woman, is this:—

"Here under lieth buried the Body of Anne Rede, the Daughter of Sir Tho. Bleyrhapset Knt. and first the wife of George Duke late of Brampton Esq. and then after the wife of Peter Rede of Gwymingham Esquier, the which Anne departed this Lyfe the xvi Day of April in the year from Christes Incarnation 1577."¹⁵

9. *Ibid.*, p. 231.

10. *Ibid.*, pp. 200, 201.

11. This bell was formerly rung daily at 4 a.m., and the present verger can remember his grandfather getting up to ring it. It is still occasionally rung.

12. Somerset House, 4 Sheffield.

13. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 94, R. 4.

14. Blomefield, III., p. 317.

15. *Ibid.*, IV., p. 259.

After Rede's death a lease of the manor, with rent of assize, new rent, profits of court, heriots, estreats and all profits, was granted to Charles Ogiliv. . [? Ogilvey] at a rent of £96 6s. 10d. The new tenant cannot have held the property for long, for very soon afterwards Anthony Death esquire, was lessee. In 43 Elizabeth he is described as "the Queen's farmer." During his tenancy the Manor House began to fall into great decay, and an attempt was made after his death to compel his heirs to make good the damage. He and his first wife lie buried in Gimingham Church, where their memorial brass still remains.

"Here lyeth Anthony Death Ar who Deceased y^o. 8 of May 1612 and Elizabeth his wife who Deceased the xx of December Ann Domini 1589."

His second wife, Margaret, survived him, and seems to have remained in Gimingham until her death. The Will of "Margaret Deathe, widow, of Gymingham," was proved in London in 1614 [93 Lawe].

Curiously enough Anthony Death's daughter and co-heir, Anne or Agnes, had married Sir Ralph Blennerhasset, great-great-nephew of Sir Thomas Blennerhasset, father-in-law to Peter Rede. Sir Ralph was the last of his name, and was living in 1632. He and his wife took some part in Gimingham affairs as she was Anthony Death's executrix, and was therefore liable for the decay of the buildings during his tenancy.

They evidently sub-let the remainder of the Death lease to Thomas Doodes, *gentleman*, who was already lord of the manor of Sydestrond Poynings. During Doodes' occupation of the manor things went from bad to worse, as will be seen in a subsequent chapter. He must have been a very truculent fellow judging by the frequency with which his name occurs as a party to various Duchy lawsuits.¹⁶

Meanwhile the great wood of Southwood had been leased to Sir Wymond Cary or Carey since 21 Elizabeth,¹⁷ and in 10 James I. we find Sir Phillip Cary or Carey named as tenant. During the Carey tenancy there were

Southwood
leased to Sir
W. Cary. (21
Elizabeth, etc).

16. For some of these incidents see *Records of a Norfolk Village*, pp.

27-39.

17. He held it in addition to the Greatwood, Murkredge Grove, Hawewood, Highloke, and Hoggewood in Tunstead, at an inclusive rent of £18 19s. 2d.

endless disputes over the timber and herbage, which led to a good deal of litigation in the Duchy Courts.

George Gryme.

After the death of Doodes, George Gryme, the elder, *gentleman*, farmed the demesne lands, and seems to have been responsible for much of the havoc which was wrought amongst the timber at this time. He also held a lease under the Duchy of lands in Sidestrand, formerly belonging to William Worstead who was executed for murder.¹⁸

George Gryme and his family resided at the Hall for many years inspite of two changes in the ownership of the manor.

Sir E. Cooke
(to Jas. I.)

In 10 James I. the Manor of Gimingham with its rents and profits of courts, etc., was let to Sir Edward Cooke, for £96 6s. 10d., and in 1639 the estate was sold outright to the Mayor and Citizens of London.

Sold to Lord
Mayor and
Citizens of
London, 1639.

From that time onwards the Duchy of Lancaster ceased to own land within the Soke, although the district continued to be within its coroner's jurisdiction, and the advowsons of North Repps, South Repps, Mundesley, Trimingham and a mediety of Sidestrand were retained in its patronage.

Blomefield tells us that "this lordship was in the Crown in King Charles the First's time, and was after sold to the city of London, and pays a fee farm rent of £132 os. 16d. q. per ann."¹⁹

The following letter is addressed to Mr. Boleyn, the Steward, shortly after the Citizens of London acquired the Manor.

²⁰"*Letter on behalf of the Court of Aldermen, London, to Mr. Bullen.*

Mr. Bullen, My loue remembred unto you though unknowne Sr., I am appointed by the lord maior and court of Aldermen of London and by the Comittees for the Cittie land to view the Manor of Gymingham of w^{ch} as I am informed by Mr. Basell Nicoll that you are steward; and to appointe a Court for the mannor and to be there p'sent [present]; I have therefore purposed to have a Court kept there for the mannor on Tuesday the seavententh of September, against w^{ch} tyme I desire

18. See *Records of a Norfolk Village*, Appendix F.

19. Blomefield, VIII., p. 124.

20. Gunton MS.

you would be ready to meet me there, and to give warning to the tenants of the mannor of a Court then to be holden, and I desire you to make readye the admittances of all the copieholders that have byn admitted since the Cittie's purchus, that I may then asseesse the copieholders fynes, and I desire you to informe y^rselfe what you may of the value of ech of the said copiehold lands and of all the other copieholds wthin the mannor, and also of the [[?] demeanes ferme], and of what value the woods were that Mr. Gryme hath cut downe, and will him to meete you and mee at the Court at Gytingham, will likewise the bayliff to make a p^rfect [perfect] rentall of all the copie holders and freeholders and to distinguish them, and what other thing is fitting for mee to be informed of I desire you to be assisting to mee, wherein you shall doe the Cittie service, as well as helpe mee, and what care you take herein for the Cittie's good I shall make it knowne to the Courte of Aldermen, and yo^r paines shalbe recompensed, and soe I rest.

Yo^r louing frend,

JOHN WITHERS.

I pray you send an answer to my house wth speed in St. Nichas lane in London nere Caning Street.

the day of keeping the Court is tuesday the seavententh day of September.

You shall not need to send mee a letter because I am certeine this wilbe broughte to yo^r hands."

The letter is addressed "To his louing frend Mr. Bullen, Steward of Gytingham in Norff, these d.d."

This Mr. Withers seems to have been the City's agent for Gimingham, and to him the rents had to be paid. The Rev. Thomas Thexton, rector of Gimingham from 1623 to 1650, and reeve there in 1640, writes on 14 October of that year²¹ "to his much esteemed friend Mr. Robert Bulleyne" of Bale. Mr. Withers "hath sent to me for the king's rent and the wickners of Sydistrond and Trimmingham have nott yett payed: and some

Broken Coins.

of the others send such broken monyes as is nott fitt of them to be sent upp, or returned; I pray giue them warning herof, and also for ther quarterlye Collectinge therof

Letter to
London takes
14 days.

and paying of itt to me: If you please to write to Mr. Withers I cann send yo^r letter by one that will deliuer itt wth his owne hands wthin 14 dayes. I pray be pleased to send me an answer for my fine [?]: I am very seck and therfor have desired Willm Bates to officiat for me att this Court: I Comend you to the lord and rest.

Yo^r respectiue louing frend,

THO. THEXTON."

Subsequently the manor of Gimingham was sold to the Britiffe family—Robert Britiffe esq^r. being lord in 1719, and from him it descended to the Harbords of Gunton. At the present day Lord Suffield is still lord of the manor of Gimingham-Lancaster, but he only owns a small part of the land within the Soke, which is now the property of a number of owners. Gimingham itself with the Hall farm and "Scite of the Manor" and parts of Trunch and South Repps are owned by Sir Thomas Fowell Victor Buxton, Baronet, Poynings Manor in Sidestrand belongs to Sir Samuel Hoare, Baronet, who is also a landowner in North Repps and South Repps, John Henry Gurney, of Keswick, esquire, and John Henry Buxton, of Easneye, esquire, are also considerable proprietors, the former in North Repps (where North Repps Hall is included in his estate), and the latter in Trimingham.

CHAPTER II.

COURT ROLLS, 21 HENRY VIII.

In a century that was teeming with new theories and standards of living we might expect to find an echo of the general disturbance and awakening even in so remote a place as the Soke of Gimmingham. But at first sight the Court Rolls and other 16th Century evidences seem to show that life in the Soke in that century was very little different from what it had been in the one which preceded it. The Accounts and Rolls continue to record exactly the same kind of business as heretofore, and the long lists of bondmen paying chevage, or the cases of parents paying merchet show that the arm of the lord could still reach his villeins both within and without the territorial confines of the Soke. And yet here and there we get a hint of the weakening of manorial jurisdiction and custom. An enormous number of cases occur of persons who have overburdened the fields in the time of "shack" (i.e., from the end of autumn to the Feast of St. Dunstan) or who have ploughed up mere balks or doles dividing the strips in the open fields, or who have otherwise broken the rules of communal agriculture.

This type of offence increases as time goes on, for the obvious reason that as the old agricultural system began to be superseded by more modern methods, and enclosure became more general, the tenants gradually found themselves bound by rules which had ceased to be universal or beneficial, and they therefore became lax in observing them. Neglect of the "Customs of the manor" by one class of persons led to the disregard of the communal obligation by the population at large. It became increasingly necessary to fight for common rights, and in 36 Henry VIII., a typical decree was promulgated, ordering that "the King's tenants of his manors of Gymingham, Antingham, Thorpe, Bradfield, Trunch and South Repps adjoining to the Common, should have their accustomed right in the Commons between the said towns, and that Sir John Gresham and his tenants of Thorpe should have but 300 sheep on the common called Oldfield Heath."¹

The Manorial Courts and common agriculture were losing their importance for the same reason, for it was their duty to

1. Blomefield, VIII., p. 175.

enforce an obsolete system, which people no longer found to be to their advantage, and who were therefore ready enough to resort to other tribunals for settlement of their disputes. Constant complaints are made in the later Rolls and Duchy Suits that tenants of the Soke have carried their pleas into other courts, or that they have been summoned to appear in them "contrary to the custom of the manor." In 21 Henry VIII., we get an especially interesting case of this kind, when William Joyner of South Repps is wrongfully cited to appear "in the Court of William, Archbishop of Canterbury, in *le arches* [Court of Arches] at London." Ecclesiastical Courts were in bad repute in those days of religious controversy, a fact which doubtless contributed to the heinousness of the offence.

The financial position of the manor was not so good as formerly, for although the increase in the currency had lowered the purchasing power of money, the rents showed little or no advance on the fixed sums which had been paid centuries before. Moreover, in 1511-12 nearly every one of the larger tenants was in arrears, downwards from the Southwells, who were farmers of the "Scite of the manor of Gymyngham, the columbar, dovehousyard, xxvj acres of pasture in le somerfields [probably the "Somerlesewe" of the Court Rolls], the water mill, the pannage of Southwood" etc. The Receiver's Accounts show clearly this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

²A.D. 1511-1512.

GIMINGHAM. Account of Richard Lloide and William Wade, receivers there, from Michaelmas 3 Henry VIII. to Michaelmas 4 Henry VIII. (A.D. 1511-1512).

REPAIRS. The accountant answers for divers repairs made this year, to wit, by John Warde, farmer of the mill of Gymyngham, upon les bekkes within the park leading to the same mill ... 6s. 8d.

The accountant does not answer for the following arrears, etc:—

William Atwode for the farm of the rabbit-warren of Gymyngham; arrears ... 40s.

John Hubbert, of Gymyngham, for the farm of his lands "escallated" to him in the 22nd year of the late King Henry VII. (A.D. 1507) at 59s. 4d., of which there is paid 29s. 8d. 29s. 8d.

John Harwarde for the farm of his lands at Gymyngham at £11, of which there is paid £1 ... £10.

Thomas Fulborne for the farm of his land in Gymyngham at £4 16s. od., of which there is paid £3 16s. 8d. ... 19s. 4d.

John Calke, bondman of the King, of Paston, for the farm of his land at £4 8s. od., of which there is paid £3 8s. od. 20s.

Richard Albion for fourteen acres of land with one cottage in Gymyngham, Tremyngham and Mondesley at 24s. 4d., of which there is paid 6s. 8d. ... 17s 8d.

Clement Wortys for the farm of four acres of bondland in Trunche, at 16s., of which there is paid 8s. ... 8s.

John Bray for the farm of twenty-four acres of land in "the Selonde and Heth" in Gymyngham, Tremyngham and Sysfronde at 40s., of which there is paid 10s. ... 30s.

William Garlek for the farm of sixteen acres of bondland in (the) Selonde and Heth, with one messuage in Gymyngham at 38s. 4d., of which there is paid 9s. 7d. ... 27s. 9d.

John at Heth for the farm of twenty-six acres of bondland (in the) Selonde and Heth in Gymyngham and Tremyngham at 43s. 4d., of which there is paid 10s. 10d. ... 32s. 6d.

——— wife and executrix of the will of Francis Southwell, farmer of the site of the manor of Gymyngham, of arrears £26.

The long series of Gimingham Court Rolls in the Record Office concludes with that for 21 Henry VIII., which contains a great many interesting entries. There are in it a specially large number of presentments for violation of the custom of "shack" and common pasture.

It will be seen from the following extracts that these offences against the rules of communal pasturage fall into two groups, first comes the case of tenants with a customary right to shack their sheep and cattle who have overburdened the fields with a larger number of beasts than their tenement entitles them to, or who have allowed their beasts to feed in the field out of shack time. Next comes the case of persons who have no legal right to share in the common pasture, whose tenements do not enjoy the privilege of common appendant or appurtenant, and who are therefore trespassers whenever they put their animals to feed upon the tenants' common pasture, whether it be in shack time or not.

³"John Wattes overburdened the field of Mundesley after the autumn, viz., in the time of "le shak" with his cattle.

[Custom.]

No beast is to go at large in the said field from the Feast of St. Dunstan the Bishop to the end of autumn.

Adam Kemp, Robt. Bray, Catherine Roper and Thomas Pays are trespassers with their cattle in the field of Gymingham.

John Blowfeld of Tremyngham overburdened the field in the time of "le shake."

John Hall and Thomas Pays suffered their cattle to go at large in the field of Sydestrond after the tenants had taken their cattle out of the field." In most cases fines of 4d. or 6d. are imposed, but on this occasion they are threatened with a pain of 40s. if the offence is repeated.

"Richard Wether tethered his cows in "Davys Lane" [in Trunch] which bit up and destroyed the young wood called "Sprynge." Thomas Gray did the like and his cattle trespassed in the field of Trunch.

John Aleyn, butcher, is a common trespasser with his cattle in the field of South Reppes. Robt Wylson is the like with a horse. John Blowfeld is the like [etc:] Rich^d. Calthorp gent overburdened the field of Northreppes in time of "le Chak" with his sheep.

Thomas Spylman damaged his neighbours' corn in North Repps with his cocks and hens. Alice Hawke and Agnes Key trespassed with their animals in the field there. John Cutlek did likewise."

Several cases occur of the removal of the boundaries between the strips in the open fields.

The Gimingham chief pledges "say that Robt Bray with his plough ploughed up one stone boundary (*unu bund lapideu*), between his land and his neighbours. He is not to do it again under pain of 12d."

"John Clark ploughed up a dole called "a mere" [in Mundesley] between the land of William Pratte and Jeremy Taylour [!]."

The North Repps jury find that "Nicholas Barker encroached upon the bond land of this manor in the tenure of divers persons. He is to put back [? the boundary] into its right course as it was before."

Another common obligation which often got neglected was the cleansing of such portions of the streams or water ditches as passed through the tenant's land.

In Trunch Thomas Prymeros is presented "for not cleansing the "Spring" called "Yngham Medowe"⁴ as he ought.

The tenants of the land formerly of Wm. Trusbut did not cleanse the common water called "a common streme" in Colmans in Trunch."

"Henry Reppes gent and John Harward gent did not cleanse "le bek" opposite their land [in North Repps].

4. Ingham = meadow in Anglo-Saxon, etc.

"Cecil Aleyn, widow, did not repair 'le bek' leading from the mill of Gemyngham to Mondysley." [She also allowed one young beast to go at large in the field of Mondysley in summer time].

"Sir William Paston did not cleanse 'le bek' leading from Mondysley to Gemyngham."

"John Aleyn did not cleanse the common river in South Reppes next the close called Bryghtes Clos."

"James Flyght did not cleanse the common river at Clempyn Dame," [Clapping Dams].

The tenants were responsible for the upkeep of the local roads, each one being obliged to keep open and in repair those adjoining his particular holding.

In Trunch we find William Bolt presented because he "did not repair the way opposite Lamkyns and 'le Caucey' [causeway] leading from his messuage to that of Thomas Wurtes," while Edward Atwode has neglected "to repair the highway leading from Thorpe Market to Northrepps."

The North Repps jury complain that "James Haugh has not yet amended the common way leading from North Reppes to Roughton," and "Richard Calthorp gent and Wm. Grey "raffman" [grocer], of the same place, "did not repair the common way at 'Kyrkegate Strete,'⁵ called 'Well pytte.'"

Private persons often stopped up public rights of way, as for instance "Robt. Tolle [who] obstructed the common path called 'a beresty' [sty=stile] or "Thomas Pays [who] stopped up the common way called 'le Porley Wey'" at Gimingham.

This brings us to the question of the exact nature and purpose of the purrill, purrilly or porley way within the Soke. In a previous chapter we have shown its derivation, and in a subsequent chapter I shall hope to explain at greater length how it seems to have specially signified the fixed way along which the parishioners of each village went on the "perambulation" or beating of the bounds. Failure to "go on the perambulation with their fellows as they ought" was a frequent offence, for which William Key, John Toly, Robt Sawtre and Nich^o Barker of North Repps were fined 3d. each in this particular Roll.

Tenants were obliged by their tenure to keep their tenements in a proper state of repair. The South Repps jury amerce Thomas Ryse "for not repairing his cottage formerly Richard Suevyn's," and complain that William Payne of Paston has not repaired his bond tenement in South Repps."

5. At the present day North Repps village is nearly always called Church Street by the inhabitants.

The North Repps jury order James Haugh "to repair his tenement before the Feast of St. John Baptist."

The Hulver jury find that "Robert Damyot committed waste in his bond tenement" and imposes fines on three other persons for similar offences.

According to the Gimingham custom by which houses and tenements were liable to pay certain dues to the manor courts and not the tenants thereof, the following houses paid 4d. each for respite of Suit of Court.

GEMYNGHAM, Domus Wetyng (iiij*d.*), Domus Kebyng (iiij*d.*) [Kevyng ?], Domus Yatehouse (iiij*d.*), Domus Tey, Domus Kepe, Domus Duy [?], Domus Roke, Domus Cuttyng, Domus Goche, Domus Derly, Domus Palmere, Domus Ayleward, Domus Powle, Domus super Montem, Domus Gothmond, Domus Petri Wake, Domus Drawdyche, Domus Ramme, Domus Bond. TRUNCHE, Domus Devon, Domus Pote, Domus Bett [?] Warren, Domus Cugge [Bugge ?], Domus Powell, Domus Plomer, Domus Barker, Domus Awnse, Domus Curle, Domus Kevyng, Domus Gryme, Domus Edward, Domus apud Montem. TREMYNGHAM, Domus Alunday, Domus Amend, Domus Wyppyng. NORTH REPPES, Domus Carwyn [?], Domus Southwoode, Domus Crosdale, Domus Raytis. MONDYSLEY, Domus Grene, Domus Norwyn, Domus Clerkes, Domus Brome, Domus Spylman, Domus Toweyne [Tolvyne ?], Domus Athyll, Domus Wyche, Domus Blokeman, Domus Rolff, Domus Blakman, Domus Wystan, Domus Gryffyn, Domus Brygg, Domus Coke, Domus Cutman, Domus Rolff Seall [?], Domus Cary. SYDESTROND, Domus Wald, Domus Clerk, Domus Nichi Prest, Domus Calle [?], Domus Aldrych, Domus Spylman, Domus Warr Prest, Domus Byrde, Domus Ulterd, Domus Iselyngs, Domus Crowgate. PASTON, Domus Syrek, Domus Hulbert, Domus Elwyn, Domus Atapre [?], Domus Bonde, Domus Athyll, Domus Aslak, Domus Gryce, Domus Idelker, Domus Byrde, Domus Rogere Clerk, Domus Alani Clerk, Domus Harman, Domus Kyrgate, Domus Dybald, Domus Flogger, mediet domus Esmondes, mediet domus Asketyll, mediet domus Jey [Joy ?]. HULVER, Domus Wynstan, Domus Tompeson. SOUTH REPPES, Domus Wether, Domus Herveyde, Domus Blothehouse.

"[These] give to the lord the King of fine for respite of [suit of] court as of old time they ought."

The list of Houses is followed by the names of the more important tenants paying fines for respite of suit of Court, amongst others "of the Abbess (xij*d.*) of Brusyard for her land in South-reppes; Sir W^m. Paston, knight, for his land in Paston and Trunche; Geo. Willoughby esq^ro for his land in North Walsham, and Mon-

dysley; the tenants of the land of Henry Rowse for their lands in Mondysley; Henry Reppes, gent, for his land in South Reppes; Henry Verdon for his land in North Reppes."

After this come the names of fourteen bondmen paying 6d. chevage for licence to live outside the manor, and the Roll ends with a summary of the receipts of all the Courts of the year.

From wreck of sea ...	...	16d.
„ Royal fish ...	...	3s.
„ Issues of land ...	...	20d.
„ Licence to marry ...	...	4d.
„ Fine of suits ...	...	6s.
„ Chevage ...	...	7s.
"De Sect Dom" ...	...	30s. 8d.
From small amercements ...	...	48s. 1d.

It is curious that only 16d. accrues from "wreck of sea," for higher up on the membrane we read of "one 'le mast' cast on the seashore [which] came to the King as wreck and is valued by the tenants at 8s.; therefore the King has the half thereof"—and presumably the tenants had the other half.

Marriages within the Soke cannot have been very plentiful if only 4d. was paid in merchet, but very probably the tenants had taken the law into their own hands and were marrying without the lord's licence. At any rate the jury of bondmen find that "Thomas Skynner and John Gage of Pakfeld married Margaret Colyson and "Merier" Collyson, daughters of John Colyson of Mondysley, native tenant of the King, without the King's licence; therefore let it come to the King's council."

Of course this Roll is also full of entries relating to the transfer of bond land without licence and various minor complaints against the tenants and others, for example, that "John Cressy of Suth-reppes cut down divers oaks in the King's wood called Southwood" (fine of 20s.!), or that "John Byrde the elder and John Byrde the younger, of Cromer, hunted hares in this lordship, to the grave damage of the King and his tenants and to the ill example of others." (Fined 6d. each or 40s. if the offence is repeated). The Chaplain of the Chantry seems to have been rather a dishonest knave and the Inquest at large has to present him twice for stealing and poaching. "Robert (sic) Goodys,⁶ Chaplain, took a 'hog' of the goods of Thomas Flyght and led it away" and again "Roger (sic) Goodes with his dogs killed hares called 'leverettes' within this lordship!"

6. Roger Goods paid subsidy in moveables in South Repps, 14 Hen. VIII.

There are numerous entries relating to quarrels and assaults and to the use of opprobrious words.

"Hugh Edmonds made an assault and rescue upon Robt Gryme, the King's messor."

"Thomas Wettby used opprobrious words against Thomas Skywytt" (Fined 12d.), "Adam Kemp is a common 'barator' between his neighbours," "John Jowler is a common 'barator' and sower of discords between his neighbours" and so on.

More curious is the case of John Aleyn "who keeps Hugh Edmonds known as a suspected man [for his assault on the messor?] and will not give him up. He is to turn him out of the house before the Feast of St. Andrew next under pain of 20s."

Another interesting entry states that "Thomas Fuller played at unlawful games viz. bowling and cardyng, and he is not to repeat the offence under pain of 6s. 8d." One fails to see why bowling and card playing (for cardyng no doubt comes from the Tudor verb "to card," i.e., to play cards) should have been illegal, especially in the days of jovial king Henry VIII., and before the rise of the Puritans!

One final point of interest found in this Roll for 21 Henry VIII. is the number of suits which were wrongfully undertaken against the manor tenants in foreign courts outside the jurisdiction and contrary to the custom of the Soke. In this one year four cases of the kind are brought forward by the juries.

The jury of bondmen first present "Robert Ston, clerk, rector of Overstrand,⁷ because he wrongly vexed and unjustly troubled the King's tenants of this lordship, outside the lordship of Gemyngham, for matters determinable within this Court," (Fined 40s.).

"Thomas Bettis of Crowmer cited William Joyner of Southreppes to appear in the court of William, Archbishop of Canterbury in 'le arches' at London (i.e. the Court of Arches) against the liberty and old custom of this court and in contempt of the lord the King. He is fined 20s. if he does it again."

"John Marsham of Overstrand unjustly disturbed divers tenants of this manor and caused them to be amerced in foreign Courts outside this lordship and without the precincts of this leet, for certain matters determinable here, in contempt of the King" (etc.).

"John Russell, bailiff of Bacton Turn, unjustly took a house of Nicholas Neat (? Neal) for a certain penalty which was first punishable (i.e., recoverable) in this court."

7. Robert Stone, appointed rector of Overstrand by the Bishop 1526. He seems to have resigned soon after this prosecution, for a successor was appointed in 1531.

In conclusion there is the curious case of the interference of "Andrew Calle, bailiff of Wm. Lakeney, the prior of Bromholme, who distrained John Benyngton of South Repps in the Fair there for a stall there called 'a standyng,' against the liberty and custom of this manor. He is fined 40s. if he offends again." I take it that the Fair was at Bromholm (although the wording might equally infer that it was at South Repps), and that the entry illustrates a claim by the Gimingham tenants to set up a stall toll free in a Fair outside the confines of the manor, a privilege which had probably been granted to them on some special occasion. It seems hardly likely that the prior's bailiff would have attempted to interfere with a South Repps man at a Fair within his own village and manor. In any case Andrew Calle had exceeded his powers when he tried to exercise his authority over a Gimingham tenant!

CHAPTER II .

A SIXTEENTH CENTURY MANOR BOOK, COMMON RIGHTS, GAVELKIND, AND THE TALE OF A DEFAULTING WICKNER.

Amongst the muniments at Gunton one day I came across a curious little paper book of 25 folios, bound up in a fragment of a 15th century vellum MS. This cover is written in the formal "bookhand" of the Middle Ages, and gives in old French verse the stories of Christ disputing in the Temple, the Marriage of Cana, and a column of prose, probably forming part of a homily. The first poem begins in the following manner :

"Joseph e marie si sunt demore
En ierusalem icele cite
A pres icele feste si sunt returnée "

and goes on to tell how "A l'escole de Giuz ihù [Jesu] entra," and where whilst He is disputing with the doctors

"Marie sun fiz tres quereit
K^r ant [criant] pur lui mut dolent demorat
Al quart iur a giu' pleidant
Marie troua sun enfant.
L [elle] le lapelle dune maintenant,"

reproving her Son for leaving her and Joseph, but "Jhu' lui respunt par beau dis, Bele, mere " and so on.

However, this interesting cover is not what really concerns us in the little MS. book, and we must pass on to its contents. Inside, the title page gives a date of 7 January, 1617, and a note to say that "this booke was showed to Richard Googyl Att the time of his examinacon," with mention of George Gryme gent., informant, and Edmund Gryme, deforciant, in a forgotten case. I take it that the date of 1617 refers only to this memoranda of some transaction or suit or whatever it was, and not to the contents of the book, which apparently begin in the reign of Henry VIII., with several references to arrangements made in the previous reign.

The book was evidently used for reference by the manor authorities, for it gives very full particulars of rents and bond

works, besides details of manor customs and lists of the names of the tenants. On p. 2 of the ancient cover is written "This booke was borrowed of Mr. Gogle being Hayward of Gimingham and it werr verie good if it werr restored to him againe, so be it."

Upon the title page there is a brief glossary of some of the Latin terms used to describe bond works in the text of the book, viz.

"sarculatio a wedinge or rakinge up of ye weeds.

sarculus a wedinge hooke or rake

falcarius aut falcario [sic] to cut corne wth sickle or sithe, to mow.

Precarius. a. in^r. adiritair is a thing granted to one by prayer or intreatie to use as please ye party and no longer."

The book is so full of detailed information that I feel obliged to print a large portion of it, partly verbatim and partly in abstract.

The first page is headed "the book of Robert Gryme formerly Richard Asketle's," and it begins with a description of the typical Gimingham bond tenement—the House of Gothemond. It is in exactly similar language to the Richard III. survey already given, so I will not reprint it here.

House of
Gothemond.

The reeve's and wickners' accounts which follow are full of interest. From the first series, for 29 Henry VIII., we learn that the Sale of Works brought in £7 6s. 4½d., a considerable sum, which infers extensive commutation of services by the tenants. Allowance of the enormous sum £11 12s. 5½d. is made for land in the sea, showing what inroads the sea had made on the coasts of the Soke. Thomas Pecke, the Chantry Chaplain, gets 20s. a year as his salary, which seems little enough, and only 6d. is expended annually on wax for the candles and wine for the Mass. On the other hand parchment for the Court Rolls costs as much as 4s.

Sale of Works.

Land in Sea.

The Chantry.

Parchment for
the Court
Rolls.

In 29 Henry VIII., John Harmer was reeve and accounted for the following receipts, and outgoings.

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Assize	90	6	3½
New Rent	1	5	8½
Sale of Works	7	6	4½
Farm of the herbage and pasture	5	5	0
Sale of corn		2	9
Allowance to the reeve (etc.)	3	7	6½
Allowance of rent for land in the sea	11	12	5½

	£	s.	d.
In respect of rent in decay this year ...		19	9
For the salary of Thomas Pecke [Chantry priest]	1	0	0
And in wax and wine bought for the Chapel of the lord, per annum			6
Parchment bought for the Court Rolls ...		4	0
Sum total	£16	14s.	5d.

And for "y ^e sefallund' &	8	0	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
fr brisyerd [Brusyard Nunnery] rent ...		7	1
& 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. "allowed for brisyerd in Northrepps."			

And 2 quarters of oats as rent in Paston & Syderstrond at Michaelmas."

It will be remembered that each wickner had to make his reckoning with the reeve once or twice a year, paying over to him all fines and rents collected in each village, and an account of bond services duly carried out or neglected. The Rents of Assize were paid half yearly or quarterly, and the fines from the estreat of the manor rolls, annually. In this particular twelve months the amount of "The whole yere rent pd. to y^e Reue by y^e wign of euy [every] towne wthin the Soken beside y^e allowance" was £66 19s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., besides £3 os. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. rent from the Hayward of Dalling, £6 2s. 7d. from the Hayward of Gimingham, and £11 11s. 8d. from small fines and the perquisites of the Court. The wickners' accounts show the proportionate amounts rendered by each village.

Sum total of
Rents for one
year.

NAME OF VILLAGE AND WICKNER.	RENT, 1ST & 2ND QUARTER.	3RD Qr.	4TH Qr.	ESTREATS 4TH Qr.	
received "of Wm. Dowghty wig of Sou' [Repps] or [our] ladies daye in pte of ye halfe yerres rent dew at that daye wth. IXs of myne owne rente " "more of him "	£3.0.0.				
Nicholas Bawchin, Sydestronnd. Andrew Woots, Mondesley. Nicholas Cooke, N. Repps.	£1.10.0. £1.3.4. £2.6.8. £1.8.4.	16.8. £1.3.4. 10.0.	£1.2.2 $\frac{3}{4}$. 19.1 $\frac{1}{2}$. £2.11.5 $\frac{1}{4}$.	£2.1.1. 6.2. £1.6.0.	"besids Dowties dis- tres."
John Braye, S. Repps. Kelinge, Paston.	£2.0.0. £5.0.0.	£2.0.0. £2.0.0.	£6.3.6 $\frac{1}{2}$. £4.7.1.	£4.6.1. £5.2.4.	with 6s. 8d. "of Mr. Paston's rent to Mr. Googll."
Nicholas Barker, Hulver. Rich. Wortes, Trunch. John Gullions, Gimmingham—Try- mingham.	£1.10.0. £7.0.0. £4.0.0.	— — £2.0.0. 18.6 $\frac{1}{2}$.	£2.0.2 $\frac{3}{4}$. £7.10.11 $\frac{1}{4}$ 17.5 $\frac{1}{4}$	£1.10.4. £7.0.1. £2.17.1.	
John Gabyn, officer of Crabgate in Dalling. S. Playford, Hayward of Gimming- ham in rent.			£3.0.3 $\frac{3}{4}$ £7.2.7.	3.9. £4.0.16.	"for his extr in Gy, Claye & Crom" (er).

Wickners'
Accounts, 32
Henry VIII.

The next series of wickners' accounts are dated 32 Henry VIII., and are described as "the reck [oning] betwyxt Ro Brown[in]g haiward & y^e wickn[er]s of y^e ma[no]r of Gy." In this case the wickner accounts to the hayward for all bond services, instead of to the reeve for money rents. The money paid to the hayward in this case was evidently in commutation of works.

Harvest and
Weeding Works

"The heywd recd of y^e Wick[ner] of Trunch all y^e huest [harvest] works and 28 wedings p^r [price] xxj pence & viijs iiij^d in monye. The h [hayward] recd of y^e wickn of Try[mingham] all y^e h [harvest] works & xij wedings p^r ix^d & vs iiij^d. in monye. The h of Gym all y^e h works & xij^d wedings p^r ix^d & xiijs iiij^d in mony.

Recd of y^e w of South [Repps] all y^e h works & xvj wed[ings] p^r. xij^d & xviijs iiij^d in monye.

Recd of y^e w of Paston y^e works & vjs vj^d.

Recd of y^e w of North [Repps] xs.

Recd of y^e w of Sy[destrond] vs x^d.

Recd of y^e w of Hulu[er] vs. x^d.

From a very obscure passage which follows it appears that Thomas Gryme, farmer of part of the demesne lands, retained in his own hands "Ls. iiij^d. & all ye wedings Aboue rente."

We now come to a series of detailed lists of all the bond works due from the tenants, dated 1580. As one looks at these pages of closely written MS. it is difficult to understand the theory that bondage was virtually at an end before the accession of Elizabeth. The subject of the survival of villeinage seems to me to be so important that I am dealing with it separately in the next Chapter, where these lists will be found in full. In passing I will just note that the usual price of the works was 2s. for a plough, 4d. for a harvest work and 2d. for a weeding work.

These were all works *sine cibo*, i.e., the tenants had to find their own food, but in addition there were the *precaria*, boon days or bene days,¹ when the lord supplied the food² [*ad cibm Dni*] and which were therefore only valued at 1d. In the Soke of Gimmingham there

Price of
"Works."

Boon Days.

1. "*Precaria*, or *boon work*, i.e., Special work at request ('ad precem' or 'at bene'), sometimes counting as part of the week-work, sometimes extra to it." Seebohm, *English Village Community*, p. 78.

2. Whence "bean feast" is derived.

were at this time two of these boon days, called respectively Halmers and Lovebenes.

There were 626 of these precariæ, "p'cars" or "prekers" accounted for in the particular year which we are considering.

After the enumeration of all the works which ought to be done comes the account of the "Heymoney" payments.

Particulars of "Compas Carrienge" and payments of barley to the farmer follow, and then come lists of

Lancetti Rents, the Lancetti rents in Gimingham, Mundesley, South Repps, Trunch, Trimingham and Knapton, amounting to £4 8s. 3³/₄d. in all, the Trimingham quarterly rents for 1573 and 1582, and a detailed rental of the lands of William Clarke (1560 to 1587), which appear to have been of a considerable extent since he paid £2 12s. 1d. in rent. His holding included land in "boicroft" and "Lancot," the tenements Asketels and Blackmans, "one howsleve called the house of pillow and one penny pd. to the heyward by me for the common ground at Boyeswell of new increase rent Anno dni 1587. And the township of Sydestrond ought to paye as much therefor." The little piece of common at Boyeswell on the boundary of Sidestrand and Trimingham seems to have been a bone of contention in the 16th century. In 1585 Sir Nathaniel Bacon, as Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster in Norfolk, makes the following note in his own handwriting—"It is agreed between the Tenants of Trymingham and Sistronde and Edmond Gryme y^t the controversie between them for a parcell of grounde called Boyeswell shal be tryed by a great enquest of all the heiwardes and Reeves wthin the nyne townes of the duchie Excepting the Inhitants of Trymingham and Sistronde and excepte the kynred and assynes of the said Edmond Gryme. And y^t this enquest shall decide whether the Tenants of Trymingham and Sistronde or either of them can justifie the feeding of the same piece of grounde wth their cattell as their comon, or what right in particular the said Edmond Gryme can challenge unto the same. Provided yf the Tenants of Trymingham and Sistronde will not accept ageinst the kinred or affinitye of the said Gryme y^t then anie of them shalbe admitted to be of the jurye.

Wm. Clarke's Lands,

Md. a lre [letter] to be written to Mr. Fuston [deputy steward for Gimingham, C.M.H.] upon his retorne from London to this effecte. And let Mr. Peyne be joyned wth him.

Endorsed: An order sett downe int. Tenen. Sis-trond and Trymingham and Gryme 1585."³

The result of this order is a suit in the Duchy Court, dated 1586⁴ in which the inhabitants claim Boyeswell as "common of pasture for their cattle levaunt and couchante⁵ at all times of the year and also have had common of pasture for their sheep, and have always washed their sheep in the watering there and have also used yearly to grave flaggs in the said piece of ground and take them and carry them away for the making, mending and repairing of the butts⁶ of the said towns as often as need should require, and have at all times watered their cattle at the watering in the ground called Boyeswell."

The fact that William Clarke paid rent for it as common in 1587 looks as if the tenants won their case, but a subsequent suit of 10 James I. shows that Edmond Gryme established his right to Boyeswell, inspite of such evidence as that of "Cicelie Hurrye of Sidestronde, widowe, fflower score years and Tenn," who affirms that "she has known Boyeswell for fower score yeres . . . and that beinge a younge girle kepte Cattell uppon the said peece of grounde and was not forbad nor interrupted by anie. And that yt was accompted Comon."⁷ I am afraid that the rights of the poorer inhabitants were very often set aside during the 16th and subsequent centuries, and that this case of Edmond Gryme and the common of Boyeswell was typical of many others elsewhere.

3. *The Official Papers of Sir Nathaniel Bacon, of Stiffkey*, edited H. W. Saunders, p. 11.

4. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 136, G. 9.

5. *Levant and Couchant*—the number of beasts which the common could support during the winter—see *Common Land and Inclosure*, Gonner, pp. 9 and 102.

6. "Where the strips [in the common fields] abruptly meet others, or abut upon a boundary at right angles, they are sometimes called *butts*"—*The English Village Community*, Seebohm, p. 6. *Buts* might in this case refer to *Shooting butts*.

7. *D. of L. Depositions*, 10 Jas. I., No. 55. The full history of the Boyeswell disputes will be found in Chap. viii. of my *Records of a Norfolk Village*.

Wickner every
17 years.

To return to William Clarke's rental—at the end, it is noted that "he was chosen wign[er] for gymi'ghm in A°. dni 1577 and he ought to be chosen W^r for that office eu'y [every] xvij yere," and on a slip of paper sewn into the cover "I [item] that Wm. Clarke Wykn' of Gymynghm' pd for his Rekonyng wth the ffearm[er] in the xx^{ti}. yere of the raigne of quene Elizab' all things allowed, xvs. iiij^d."

The book includes other rentals, some dated 1570 and 1573 and others undated, which contain particulars of allowances "for ye seafall lande," in one quarter amounting to £1 17s. 6½d. in Gimingham and Trimmingham alone, and land at "packmans," "blackmans," "Wakes," "Ruggs" [in North Repps], "Powles dalsmerdiche," "Haygate," "garleks," "Ropers," "palmeres," "asketles," "powles" and "purkes."

Several "customs of the manor" are set out in this book. Some relate to land and house tenure, others to bond works and wickner payments. The two first seem to have been framed for the preservation of the continuity of tenure in families.

"A custom.

Claim to Sur-
rendered Land
by Blood
Relation.

And yf any londe holden of the lorde by copy solde to anye man and in ye court surrendered and y^e fyne of ye lond to y^e lorde be made, whosoer' [ever] of y^e bloud of y^e fyrste tenant wyll clayme ye forsayde londe in y^e cort wthin y^e thyrde court holden after y^e surrender fyne of y^e same londe, he shall hold y^e sayde londe of y^e fyne afore made and shall not paye no other fyne but shall geue to y^e seller of y^e fyrst p'ce" [price].

"A costum.

Claim to House
and Land by a
Partner.

And yf certeyne p'tenere [partners] of a ctayne [certain] howse dothe sell hys pte [part] of hys house and londe of the same house and y^t [that] londe in the court be not surrendered ye other p'tener of ye house shall have the fore sayd londe yf he wyll clayme yt as abowe."

Ploughing
Custom.

The custom of the manor with regard to ploughing in Gimingham was that the tenant should plough for three half days, if he had a plough, and harrow that which he had ploughed for two half days at the sowing of oats and barley. In Trimmingham the tenant had to plough for three days *in the year*, namely before noon

(*ante nona*) at the sowing of oats and barley, and to harrow that which he had ploughed after dinner (*post prandm*) at the same season of the year.

Wickner
Custom.

Another custom is noted with emphasis. "Be it remembered that the wickner of Sedystronde ought to reap [*metet*] in autumn, for five days in the year, for the wickner of Tremyngham, for five his houses, Cowgate, Nichi Prest, Warr Prest, Eyslynges and Oldema" (? Olde manor, Oldeman), and then follow three illegible words ending with "which is now called Halmers," evidently referring to the boon day, and some reference to "sixty sheaves of stubble," [*lx garbas stipuli*] which I can not decipher.

Wickner
Payments.

Along with these customs we get many references to payments to the wickners, usually in the form of land or money allocated to them from the receipts or bond works remitted from services due. For instance, the wickner of Gimingham is allowed 18 days without food, value 8d. [sic], 4 half days without food, value 2d., half a cart in autumn, value 3d., and one average value 3d., making a total of 16d.

Rent for
Right of
Faldage.

On the same page as the above we get an entry in Latin which may be rendered as follows:—"Of the farmer of the demesne lands of the manor of Gymyngham, for ten acres of land lying in faldage [the privilege of setting up a sheep fold], besides his carrying from (or to) the vill of Mundsleye—20d."

Gavelkind.

This short abstract of a 16th century manor book has brought before us more than once the subject of land tenure, and before I end the chapter I should like to say something of the ancient custom of Gavelkind, which was at that time fairly common in the Soke of Gimingham. This archaic tenure probably dates back to tribal days, long before the introduction of the comparatively modern institution of primogeniture. It signifies in effect the "equal division among heirs" and Mr. Seeböhm thinks it "may be derived from *gabel* a fork or branch." Be that as it may, holding in gavelkind was by no means unusual or infrequent in Gimingham in the latter half of the 16th century. I have found amongst the Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings several suits dealing with Gavelkind land. The first of these is dated 1578,

and is a complaint by⁸ "Wm. Tatsall of Hylderston, as son of John Tatsall," who was "seazed of one acre with the appartenance held of the manor of Gimingham, descended on his death by the custom of Gavelkynde to y^r orator" and to his brothers Thomas, John and Henry Tatsall "as sons and heires," who were duly admitted to the land by the custom of the manor. The three brothers subsequently conveyed all their rights to William Tatsall and his heirs, but by an unlucky chance the "Copies of Court Roll" proving his right came into the hands of "Robt. Browninge of Trunche who by colo^r of havinge the same" . . . hath entered into possession of the one acre and "would have felled and carryed away a greate quantite of tymber and woode growinge uppon . . . the same" and not content with these depredations he has also taken steps to prosecute William Tatsall in the "Common Law"! Tatsall therefore prays the Duchy Court for an injunction against Robert Browninge.

In the same year⁹ "John Payne of Paston, husbandman, complains that about 40 yeres now paste one William Payne of Paston his grandfather was seised of one messuage and 40 acres of lond, medowe and pasture thereunto belonginge, being copyholde holden of the manor of Gimingham," on his death it descended to Robert Paine, who was duly admitted in the manor Court and "enjoyed the sd property during his lifetime and on his death about 8 years now past," the lands passed to his sons William and John Payne, being "of the nature of Gavellkynde" and "pted [parted] betwene heirs male by the custom of the manor." Notwithstanding this fact "Willm hath taken all the premisses contrary to the custom" and John therefore demands a writ to compel William to appear before the Duchy Court.

In 1587¹⁰ Robert Bateman or Baytman, of South Repps, yeoman, claims a share in "fourscore acres held according to the custom of the manor by gavelkind in North Reppes and South Reppes," as heir and grandson of Richard Baytman of South Repps, who left three sons, Richard, Robert, and John, joint heirs "accordinge to the custome of gavell kynde" (etc.). This claim is signed by "A. Dethe" (Anthony Death), the then farmer of the demesne and hall.

8. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 142, T. 4.

9. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 108, P. 4.

10. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 141, B. 23.

In the same year John Gogle, gent., of Gimingham, undertook the suit against the Rev. James Matchett which will be found in the account of the Matchett family in Part III.¹¹ In it Matchett is accused amongst other crimes of defrauding Margaret Blowfeild, his wife's aunt, "of the moyetie of certeine Copieholde Landes being Gavelkynde pcell of the Manor of Gymyngham."

The great drawback to gavelkind was its disintegrating effect upon holdings. The consolidation of property and the "engrossing of farms" were two striking features of Tudor agricultural economy, and the ancient theory of equal inheritance must have been quite out of harmony with the tendencies of the time. It is not wonderful to find that the custom of gavelkind gradually became extinct in Gimingham, as in most other parts of England, the county of Kent being practically alone in retaining its usage at the present day.

An interesting suit of this period throws considerable light upon the relative positions and functions of the reeve and wickner. It tells the story of a dispute between the reeve, Stephen Powle, and Robert Bateman, the wickner of South Repps, whom he accuses of default and fraud. The document is dated 31 Elizabeth, and forms part of vol. 147 of the Duchy Pleadings (P.4).

"Complaint of Stephen Powle of Northrepps, yoman, Thomas flight of Southrepps, yoman and John Gogle of Gymyngham, gentleman, 31 Elizabeth."

In a preamble they affirm that the tenants of Gymyngham always had "divers and sondry Reall libertyes privileges and ffranchises and they have from tyme to tyme yearely and eu'ry yeare at the Court of the sayd mannor used and accustomed to chose one of the Tenants of the sayde mannor to be Reue for one whole yeare begininge at the feaste of St. Michaell tharchangll for the yeare followinge [and] shall have the Collectinge and gatheringe of the Rentes of the sayde mannor due unto her Ma^{tie} [and the tenants are also in the habit of choosing] for eu'ry village or Townshipp w^{thin} the sayde mannor sevrall Tenants to be wickner for one whole yeare begininge at the feaste of St. Michaell tharchangll and that eu'ry Tenant from tyme to tyme so chosen Wickner for any village or townshipp shall have the collectinge and gatheringe of the fines, issues, amercymence and p'fitts [profits] of court from tyme to tyme assessed arrysinge, happeninge or growinge wthin the sayde village or Townshipp whereof he shall be sworn Wickner And for his better Direcccon in collectinge and gatheringe the same the Steward of the sayde mannor for the

11. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 142, G. 3.

tyme beinge or his understeward hath from tyme to tyme used to Deliu' [deliver] unto eu'ry Wickner an estreate of eu'ry court to be holden for the mannor for the fines, issues, amerciments and p'fitts of Courtes And that the ende of eury yeare after sutch his election eury Wickner so chosen shall make his account unto the Reve and delir [deliver] unto him the fines, assises, Amercymments and profitts of Courtes accordinge to the estreates thereof Delivered him as is aforesayde. And that the sayde Reve as well thereof as of the Rentes by him to be collected as is aforesayd, shall in the ende of the yeare make and yeld up his account thereof unto the Quenes Ma^{ties} Auditor of the sayde mannor. And if in case any Wickner refuse to make his account unto the Reve or be behinde wth his account for the same, that then the sayde Reve uppon his [making] account unto the Auditor of the sayde mannor showinge him of sutch refusalle of any wickner or that he is in arrerages uppon his account wth the sayde Reve, that then the sayde Auditor for the tyme beinge hath used to make unto the Reve a Warrant called a constrat [sic, for constat] for the levyinge of sutch arrerages as shalbe due unto to the Quenes Ma^{tie} by any the tenants or Wickners of the mannor aforesayd, By vertue whereof the sayd Reve from tyme to tyme have used to distreine sutch Tenants and Wickners as should fortune to refuse [or] be behinde wth there Rente or accounte as is aforesayd, by their goods and chattels taken or founde w^{thin} the sayde mannor, and the distresse or distresses so taken have by some of the tenants [? been] prysed [i.e., valued] and afterwarde impounded and if the sayd Tenants or Wickners shoulde not paye and satisfie unto the Reve as well all arrerages of Rents as arrerages uppon account due to the Quenes Ma^{tie} that then w^{thin} xiiij dayes then next followinge eury distresse so taken may be sould, whereby the Reve may be satisfied of the sayd arrerages due to the Quenes Ma^{tie}. And yf the distresse or distresses so taken should be more worth than the arrerages so due should amount unto to, that then the overplus thereof should be restored unto the owners of the sayde distresses.

And the Quenes Ma^{tie} beinge so seased of the mannor of Gy-mingham [etc.] at the genall court holden at Gy-mingham the [— blank] in the xxvijth. yeare of her Mat^{ties} reigne, the sayde Stephen Powle, one of your honnors sayde orators, tenant [etc.], was then by the tenants of the sayde mannor chosen Reve for the yeare then next followinge and one Robert Bateman of Southreppes yoman, one other of the Tenants was likewise then chosen Wickner for the village and Townshipp of Southreps w^{ch} sayde Stephen Powle and Robert Bateman did exicute their

seurall offices accordingle, duringe w^{ch} tyme there was deliued [delivered] unto the sayde Robert Bateman as Wickner of the sayde townshipp of Southreps by Thomas ffunston gent, then deputy Steward of the sayde mannor, seurall estreats of the Courte of the sayde mannor for the Collectinge and levyng of the issues, amercyments and profits of court arrisinge, happeninge [etc.] in the sayde townshipp in the same yeare, and in the ende of the sayde yeare next followinge their choise and election as is aforesayde, a little before the sayde Stephen Powle, one of yo^r honors sayd Orators, was to make his account unto the Quenes Ma^{ties} Auditor . . . [he] did require . . . Robert Bateman, Wickner for Southreps for the yeare then paste to yealde unto him as Reve an account of the fines [etc.] assessed [etc. upon] the sayd Town whereof he had bene Wickner, accordinge to the estreats thereof deliuv^d him for the yeare past, w^{ch} to doe the sayd Robert Bateman utterly refused and afterwarde the sayd Stephen Powle as Reve makeinge his account before Robert Hayes Esquier then Auditor for the sayde mannor of the Rents, fines and pfitts of Court assessed [etc.] for the yeare past, uppon whose account the sayd Stephen Powle was charged wth the fines [etc.] of the sayde mannor of Gymingham arrysinge w^{thin} the sayd Townshipp of Southreps, for the collectinge and gatheringe whereof the sayd Robert Bateman was to be charged as Wickner Whereuppon the sayd Stephen Powle obteyned of the sayd Mr. Hayes Auditor a constat uppon his account directed unto the sayd Robert Bateman for the arrerages uppon [his] account as Wickner of Southreps By Ver-tue of w^{ch} sayde Constat to the sayde Thomas fflight directed as is aforesayde, Thomas fflight and Stephen Powle at Southreppes aforesayde w^{thin} the courte of the sayde mannor did distreyne certeyne cattell of the sayde Robert Bateman [? as] due unto the Quenes Ma^{ties} for the fines [etc]: by the sayde Robert Bateman collected and gathered w^{ch} sayde cattell were ap-prised by certeyne Tenants of Gymingham at iij*li.*, after the apprysinge whereof the sayde cattell were put in the Quenes Ma^{ties}

Gimingham. ponde at Gymingham . . . Where they remayned by the Pound. space of one hower, duringe w^{ch} tyme the sayde Robert Bateman and the sayde John Gogle, one other of your honors sayde orators, came together to the sayde ponde where the sayde Stephen Powle and Thomas fflight were still remeyninge beinge accompaned wth one John Rannsome, late of Gymingham, yeoman, deceased, at whose cominge the sayde Bateman beinge desirouse to have his sayde Cattell out of the ponde (although he was unprovided with money whereby to satisfie her Ma^{ties}) desired the sayde John Rannsome

to undertake for him, the sayde Bateman, the payment of the sayde [? Ls. i.e., 50s.] due unto the Quenes Ma^{ties} at whose requeste the sayde John Rannsome did promise and undertake for and in the behalfe of the sayde Bateman the payment of the sayde Ls. at a certeyne daye betwene them agreed uppon, Whereuppon the sayde Cattell where [sic] p'sently deliu'ed unto the sayde Bateman, who then p'sently sould the same unto the sayde Rannsome for the some of iij*li*. in forme followinge, that is, the sayde Bateman should paye unto the sayde John Rannsome before the feaste daye of St. Gregory the next followinge Cs. for his better discharge against the sayde Reve that then the sayde Bateman should have his cattell againe and yf the sayde Bateman should fayle in payment thereof that then the sayde John Rannsome should paye unto him, the sayde Bateman X*l*. and also satisfie the sayde Reve of Ls. for the arrerages of the account as Wickner, And that the sayd Rannsome should enioy the cattell as his owne for eu' [ever], at w^{ch} tyme it was also agreed betwix the sayd Rannsome and Bateman that the sayd Bateman should in the meane tyme contynue the possession of the cattell as before he had done, duringe w^{ch} tyme the sayd Bateman intendinge to make defaulte of payment unto the sayd Rannsome at the Ffeast of St. Gregory deuised [devised] and practised wth himself and others his confederates how to defraude and defeate the sayd Rannsome of the sayd cattell notwthstandinge the sale thereof before made unto [him] Whereuppon Bateman the Satterday before the sayd feaste of St. Gregory did drive the sayd Cattell to Holt wthin the sayd countie of Norff^k. and then in open Mkett [market] sould the same cattell whereby to defraude and defeate the sayd John Rannsome of the sayd cattell, and afterwards Bateman fayled in payment of the sayd Ls. unto the sayd Rannsome for the arrerages of Batemans account w^{ch} sayd levde, dishoneste and shamefull practise deserveth to be seuerly pnished. So it is if it may please your honor that sithence the takinge of this sayd distresse and sale thereof as is aforesayd the sayd John Rannsome is deade, sithence whose death the sayd Robert Bateman hath of late commenced sute unto the common law against your honors sayd Orators in the Quenes Ma^{ties} Court of common ples at Westm^r., for the takinge of the sayd cattell out of the sayd Batemans groundes whereby to levy the sayd Ls. due Whereas in trueth the sayd John Gogle (one of your honors sayd orators), was not pvie [privy] to the takinge of the sayd cattell but was one [ly] psent as a witnes as well for the takinge thereof as of the deliu'inge the same cattell out of the pounce unto the sayd Bateman and the sale thereof by him the sayd John Rannsome, by the

death of w^{ch} sayd John Rannsome there is non that can testifie the manner and place of takinge the sayd cattell and sale thereof but your honors sayd orators. Whereby the sayd Bateman hath ioned [joined] the sayd John Gogle in the sayd accou [account] wth the rest of your honors sayd orators Whereby to giue to his lewd and deceytfull practises the more coloure of playne delinge and that the trueth thereof might not be founde out, w^{ch} sayd practises if they shall be pmitted and suffered would be an imbouldeninge to others of her Ma^{ties} tenants of the sayd mannor of Gyvingham in like causes, and also if the sayd Bateman shalbe pmitted to pcede in his sayd sute at the common lawe againste your sayd orators the libertyes, privileges and customes from tyme to tyme used and accustomed wthin the sayd mannor shalbe called in Question and tryall at the Cⁿ. lawe w^{ch} maie be to the greate p'iudice [prejudice] of the Quenes Ma^{tie} and also her M^{ties} Tenants and officers wthin the sayd mannor [who] by the strict order and course of the Cⁿ. lawes of this Realme may be punished for the due execucon of their office wthin the sayd mannor from tyme to tyme used in the levyinge of Rents, fines, etc: [The orators therefore pray that in consideration of the great expense to which attendance at the trial at the common law would put them, besides being "dangerous to her Ma^{tie} and her tenants [and] a discouragement unto her sayd Tenants and officers" in the fulfillment of their duties,] May yt therefore please your honor to grant to your sayd orators the Quenes Ma^{ties} writt of privye seale to be directed to the sayd Robert Bateman commandinge him to appear on a certeyne day and under a certayne payne [to answer the charges preferred against him].

[Signed] John Jermy. to S^r. ffancis Walsingham. princi-pall secratari to the Quenes most excellent Ma^{ties} and Chancellor of the Duchie of Lancaster.

"The Answer of Robert Bateman to the Bill of Complaint of Stephen Powle and others" is numbered P 4a. in the same volume of Pleadings. In it he declares "that the sayd Bill of Complaint is verie untrue and insufficient to be answered unto, and the matters therein conteyned are devised and ymagined against him to staye his lawfull suite commenced at the Common Law." After a preamble relating to the election of reeves and Wickners similar to that in the Bill of complaint, he states that at the Court "holden shortly after the ffeast of St. Michael the Archangell in the Seaven and Twentieth yere of her Majesties Raigne, the said Stephen Powle was chosen Reve, And executed the said office of Reve accordinglie. And that the said defendant was likewise chosen Wick-

ner for the village and Township of Southreppes And further he saithe that he beinge Wyckner could not gather uppe and collecte the fynes, issues [etc.] for that dyu'se [divers] of whome he was to gather pte thereof dwelled not in the said Towne of Southreppes, neither had he anye goodes and cattels wthin the said Towne to be distreined by. And also of some w^{ch} were am'cied [amerced] in the same Towne and dwelled ther he could not collect it because they were so poore that they had not anye goods and cattells to be distreined by. Wherefore [he] could not levye the Some or Somes imposed upon them, namely of one Chrispine Purgall who was am'cied about Twentie three shillings. But this defend^t. broughte and deliu'ed to the said Stephen Powle distresses of dyu's severall psons am'cied in the said Towne amountinge to the value of Eight Shillings. And also offered to the said Stephen Powle the some of Twentie shillings before the Audite w^{ch} he utterlie refused. Whereas in deed the said Stephen Powle accompted but for Sixteen shillings or thereabouts for the estreat of Southreppes, Neither paide or answered anye more of the said ffynes, issues and Am'ciam^{ts} Estreated in Southreppes to her Maiesties use as he hopeth he shalbe well able to prove. And the rest he moste unhonestlie and craftylie kept and uniustlie deteyned from her said Maiestie to the Evell Example to all others. Yf uppon proof hereof he be not punished therefore, as this honorable court shall thinke meete. And furth^r saithe that he hath hearde [that Stephen Powle obtained a constat from Mr. Hayes] to levye fortie Shillings as he ptended of the ggoodes and cattles of this defend^t., Wherein. yf he did soe he greatlie abused the said Mr. Hayes because the whole Estreat [for Southreppes] accompted for to her Maiesties use amounted but onelie to Sixteen shillings or thereabouts, after w^{ch} the said Stephen Powle, Thomas fflight and John Google distreined two kyne of the value of ffyve poundes and them ympounded duringe the space of one hower And afterward lett the said two kyne out of the said pounce againe. And long afterward apprysed the saide two kyne and sold them against all law and conscience and contrarie to their owne showinge in the said Bill, for if the said John Rannsome undertooke to the said Stephen Powle or Thomas fflight as it should seeme they ptended for the payment of the said ffiftye Shillings uppon w^{ch} the two kyne were lett goe, and restored to this defend^t. then it is playne that they could not agayne take the said two kyne nor sell them, because they or he to whom sutche pmise was made had remedye against the said John Rannsome for as they themselves have sett down." Robert Bateman therefore denies all the charges and says that the Estreat was paid

up, and that he is only chargeable for 16s., for which he did offer Stephen Powle 20s. He tells the Court that "the distreyninge and selling of his kine was altogether Wrongfull and Extortionous" and prays that his suit in the Common Law may proceed and that the Duchy Court will dismiss him. This document is signed by the lessee of the manor "Anth: Dethe."

CHAPTER IV.

THE LAST SURVIVALS OF VILLEINAGE.¹

Looking back over the history of the Soke since the time of the Peasants' Revolt, it is easy to grasp the fact that the days of bondage were numbered, but for all that villeinage as an institution died very hard. It has been maintained that Tudor bondage was no more than a legal fiction, but in Gimmingham at any rate it was a very troublesome disability, which many of the tenants did all in their power to evade. Some of them still continued to perform their bond services as a matter of course, proving that harvest works, ploughings, and the rest were still a normal feature of manorial life; others, however, protested and insisted on the commutation of the manual services for money rents; others again showed their dislike of the system by doing their works "very evil."

At the beginning of Peter Rede's tenancy, and just three years after Ket's Rebellion, some attempt seems to have been made to enforce a uniform performance of the bond works by the tenants and local evidence was called in order to ascertain the exact state of affairs.

²20 January 1552-3.

PETER REDE, farmer, of the Manor of Gymyngham v. ROBERT GRYME and others, tenants of the same manor. DEPOSITIONS of certain tenants of the Manor of Gymingham, "and others."

Robert Gryme of Trimingham, aged twenty-three, deposes:—

1. That he does not know of any man who refused to do his work for the "fermours" of Gymingham Hall in any of the demeane lands "used to be tyllid within the compasse of sixty yeres."
2. That he knows no other but able persons to have done the said work, but how they have done it he knoweth not.
8. That he knows that some of the wickeners have refused to account with the farmers for such works as have not been done in their charge and offices.

1. Part of this chapter has been printed in *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. XIX., part 1, pp. 9-32.

2. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 76, R. 1.

That he knows no tenant having a plough that has not done his works with his said plough, either by himself or an able deputy.

Robert Worts of Trunche, aged thirty, deposes as above to the first interrogatory.

Thomas Powle of Trymingham, aged fifty-five, deposes as above to the first interrogatory.

Thomas Riches of Trimingham, aged twenty years, deposes:—

That one Margetson hath within this year witholden one plough work “that hath been done before tyme.”

That “he being wickner in harvest last past of Gymingham” did warn one John Gogle of the same town to come to do a work of binding in harvest, but has heard the said Gogle did not come to do his work at that time.

Robert Faire of Overstronde, aged twenty-six years, deposes:—

1. That “he being wickner for Mr. Rugge of Northrepps” upon the commandment of the heyward, did warn the said tenants of Northreppes, to do certain works, to the number of thirty-two, in harvest, not knowing what persons should do the said works, and did therefore warn the tenants generally; thereunto they all answered that “they had not donne the said works for the space of ij hundred yeres, but compounded for the same, and if the farmor will take money for them they will agree with him.”

8. That he knows one John Margetson of Trymingham, and one James Cubyte, deputy for one Joane Gryme of Southrepps, wickners of the said towns “did not account with the farmours of Gymmingham for their said offices because the ancient custom was that every wickner should account for their several offices to the heyward.”

John Margetson of Trimingham, aged twenty-six years, deposes to interrogatories 1 and 2 as the first deponent.

8. That one Robert Gryme, late of Trymingham, deceased, did counsel the said Margetson, that contrary to the ancient custom, he should not account to the farmers for his office, which custom was that every wickner should account with the heyward, and by that reason he hath and yet doth detain the account of the said office in his hand, and that one Growt of Northreppes had done the like.

Robert Smith of South Repps, aged forty, deposes as first deponent.

William Barker, aged —, deposes as the first deponent.

Christopher Cotton, aged thirty, deposes as first deponent, and also that the wickner of Northrepps gave warning unto the tenants there, to come in to do their works, who answered that they would not do any works at all, but they would compound for their works as they were wont to do.

That Robert Gryme of Gyvingham, being heyward for this present year, gave no attendance "upon the plowes of Paston the xxix daye of November nor dyd se howe they dyd their works according to his offyce."

"That the said heyward did not se himself nor his deputy did not surveye the plowghes and plowghe works of the tenants of Mundesley, Gyvingham and Trymingham, the second day of September, nor was with them by the space of two hours, contrary to his office."

John Albion of Trunch, deposes:—

That "doing his raking work in harvest was requested to do his work well by the ffermor, and to se and admonish others to do the same, wherein when he did speak to other tenants in the said worke they were very much offended with him and did their said workes very evil notwithstanding."

The settlement of this dispute was promulgated in a Duchy of Lancaster Decree dated 23 September, 3-4 Philip and Mary,³ and contains the following points:—

- I. It is ordered that the tenants of the Townes of Gyvingham, Trunche, Monesley, Southrepps, Trymingham, Paston and Northrepps holding copyhold of the Manor of Gyvingham "by reason of their tenure wth [?] certeine works and seruices shall yerelie doe all suche seruices and workes to the ffermor of the Demeasne londs . . . as well with plowes and harrowes . . . And all other workes . . . to be don . . . in such Demeane lands that have ben tilled and eared at any time wthin LXth yeres next before the making of this order.

Copyholders to
do works.

The said works and services to be "well and sufficientlie don at all times hereafter". . . .

Itm.
The Wickners
to see that the
Works are
done.

"That all the wickners wthin the said manor shall at all times hereafter upon comandmente to them given by the heywarde . . . or his sufficient deputie [etc:] cause so many workes to be don . . . att any

3. *D. of L. Decrees and Orders*, Vol. X., 306-308, (Peter Rede, *gent. v. the tenants of Gyvingham*).

suche tyme as the said ffermor or his assignes shall require."

Itm.
Tenants who
are com-
pounded not
liable.

"That the heyward and wickners nor eny of them wthout the request of the fermer shall not warne [those] Tenannts wth whom the said ffermer shall agree or Excepte for the doing any of the said seruices or workes." Such tenants being exempt are not to be "warned or charged . . . Contrarye to the mynde of the fermer."

Itm.
awfull to
compound.

It shall be lawful for the tenants to compound "with the fermer for their workes, seruices and customs."

Itm.
Works either
be done or
compounded for.

If tenants fail to do their works after being warned by the wickeners, not being excepted, then they must "compound and agree with the fermer for not doing the said works."

Itm.
value of a
work id.

"Wickeners yerelie to account with the fermer" for all works done, undone and compounded for. Works not done to be reckoned "accordinge to the custome of the maner viz for any daie worke jd."

oughing and
arrowing
Works.

A Tenant "having a plowe and charged by his tenure wth workes upon notice and warninge geuen to him by the said wickners shall yerelie either in his own pson, or by good and able men plowe and harrowe the said demeane lands according to the ancient custome of the said maner."

Itm.
duties of
Wickners &
heyward.

The Wickners are to warn and summon the tenants. The Heyward or his "deputie shall surveye the said services and works to be well, dewlye, diligentlie and trewlie done." The Wickners and Heyward are "to make a yerelie reckoning with the Farmer of works done and undone."

Itm.
Hulver to com-
pound for
is. 4d.

"Tenannts of Hulver to paie yerelie for there workes w^{ch} be xvijth daies and A half to the Wickners to thuse [the use] of the said peter Rede now fermer . . . thre Shillings and foure pence."

Itm.
sidestrand to
compound for
s. 8d.

"That the Tenannts of the Towne of Sistronde shall paie yerelie for there daies workes to the said peter Rede during his terme and Interest for mowinge the grasse of the said peter wthin the said maner, And for carrieng of fortie lodes of cu' pas ("compas carrying" see below), and for two daies worke And A half of wedinge And for nyne daies worke in harvest wthoute meate And for foure daies worke wth meate six shillings

and eight pence in full recompence of the said services seu'allie [severally] sett forthe As before is declared duringe his said terme."

Itm.

Any doubt or ambiguity arising from this decision to be discussed before the King and Queen's Majesties' Attorney of the Duchy of Lancaster or before the Solicitor General.

Signed by the Commissioners: Willm Cordell: Edmunde Windham, Knight and Xpofer Heydon, Knight.

As one reads this evidence and decree one naturally asks the question, what *were* the works which these 16th Century tenants had to perform? At the risk of being wearisome to my readers I feel obliged to give in full the lists of tenants' services for certain years, for they prove two things, first that the number of the services had certainly decreased in the course of centuries, and secondly that these services, though reduced in number, were still exacted from a very large proportion of the tenants. I have thought it simpler to reduce the figures to tabular form.

"The booke of all the wrks. [works] And suics [services] to be Awnsured by Tennts of eu'y [every] township wthin the sooken of G. as followeth"—

Name of Tenant.	Ploughs	Price	Harvest Works	Price	Weedings	Price	"Carts"	Price	Total
GYMINGHAM.									
John Gogull ..	1	2s.	4	16d.	1	2d.	—	—	3s. 6d.
Wm. Gryme ..	1	2s	10	3s. 4d.	2	4d.	" $\frac{1}{2}$ a carte"	12d.	6s. 8d.
Wm. Blowfelde..	2	4s.	14	4s. 8d.	2	4d.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2s. 6d.	11s. 6d.
Jo. Skerwitt ..	2	4s.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2s. 2d.	2	4d.	—	—	6s. 6d.
Jo. Albon ..	1	2s.	3	12d.	1	2d.	—	—	3s. 2d.
Alice Pundr, <i>wydow</i> ..	1	2s.	6	2s.	1	2d.	$\frac{1}{2}$	12d.	5s. 2d.
Wm. Pulleine, <i>clerke</i> ..	2	4s.	6	2s.	2	4d.	—	—	6s. 4d.
Isack Harrolde..	1	2s.	6	2s.	2	4d.	$\frac{1}{2}$	12d.	5s.
Wm. Clarke ..	—	—	3	12d.	—	—	—	—	12d.
J. Margetson ..	1	2s.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 6d.
Martin Bakon ..	—	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	10d.	—	—	—	—	10d.
Tho. Burges ..	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	2d.	—	—	—	—	2d.
{ Sum of Harvest Works..			63	21s.					
{ Sum of Ploughs ..	12	24s.				2s. 2d.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	5s. 6d.	52s. 8d.
{ Sum of Carts ..									
{ Sum of Weedings ..									

LOST WORKS to be answered for by the Wickner.

4. Rector of Mundesley, 1563, vicar of Farndon, Notts., and Chaplain to Henry, Lord Cromwell.

Name of Tenant.	Ploughs	Price	Harvest Works	Price	Weedings	Price	"Carts"	Price	Total
Works without food	15	Price 2s. 1d.	<div>[sic] [sic] Total</div>	22s. 4d.					
Weedings	22	21d.							
Works with food	45	3s. 9d.							
"Halmers" [boon day]	24	2s.							
"Prekers" (<i>precarice</i>)	24	4s.							
"Heymowying"	—	2s. 3d.		2s. 6d.					
Carts	1½	3s.							
"Compass Carriage"	—								

"Whereof he [the Wickner] praieth to be allowed one plowghe for his office ijs. di carte [$\frac{1}{2}$ cart] xij^d. 8 wrks in haruest sine cibo 2s. 8d. & 4 wrks cn cibo dni" [4d.]

TRYMYNGHAM.

{ Edm. Gryme	2	4s.	5½	22d.	3	6d.	½	12d.	10s.
{ "for bakers"	1	2s.	1½	6d.	1	2d.	—	—	—
Robt. Payse	1	2s.	2	8d.	2	4d.	½	12d.	4s.
Wm. Clarke	2	4s.	1½	6d.	2	4d.	—	—	4s. 10d.
Richd. Bartram	1	2s.	2½	10d.	1	2d.	—	—	3s.
Martin Bakon	1	2s.	2½ [sic]	6d.	2	4d.	¼	6d.	3s. 4d.
Jo. Margetson	—	—	4	16d.	2	4d.	¼	6d.	2s. 2d.
Simone Walbut [?]	1	2s.	2½	10d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 10d.
Alice Pundr "for Bakars"	—	—	—	—	1	2d.	—	—	2d.
Thomas Colby	1	2s.	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 4d.
Isack Harrolde	1	2s.	6	2s.	—	6d.	—	—	5s. 6d.
Eme Braye	—	—	½	2d.	3	—	¼	12d.	2d.

Besides 2 works sold to Edmond Gryme and Thomas Colbye
 Sum total of all works done and undone, plus two ploughs 4s.

TRUNCHE.

THE LAST SURVIVALS OF VILLEINAGE.										279
Tho. Browning..	1	2s.	6	2s.	4d.	2	4d.	4s. 10d.	0d.	
Richard Bates ..	1	2s.	16	5s. 4d.	2	4d.	12d.	8s. 8d.	12d.	
The Wydow Browning	1	2s.	6 [sic]	2s. 4d.	1	2d.	12d.	5s. 8d.	12d.	
Tho. Worts ..	1	2s.	7½	2s. 6d.	1	2d.	12d.	5s. 8d.	12d.	
Robt. Wortes ..	2	4s.	17½	5s. 10d.	3	6d.	18d.	11s. 19d.	18d.	
Bartram Worts..	1	2s.	8	2s. 8d.	2	4d.	12d.	6s.	12d.	
Nichas Heyw[ar]d	1	2s.	7½	2s. 6d.	1	2d.	12d.	5s. 8d.	12d.	
Willm Purgall ..	1	2s.	2	8d.	1	2d.	—	2s. 10d.	—	
Richard Worts ..	2	4s.	8	2s. 8d.	3	6d.	18d.	6s. 8d.	18d.	
Rich. Crosse ..	1	2s.	4	16d.	1	2d.	6d.	4s.	6d.	
Thoms. Howse..	1	2s.	9	3s.	2	4d.	12d.	6s. 4d.	12d.	
Jo. Howse ..	1	2s.	4	16d.	1	2d.	6d.	4s.	6d.	
Jhn' Prymerose	1	2s.	4	16d.	—	—	—	3s. 10d.	6d.	
Jo. Gogull ..	1	2s.	7	2s. 4d.	2	4d.	12d.	5s. 8d.	12d.	
Tho. Wyther ..	1	2s.	5	20d.	2	4d.	12d.	5s.	12d.	
Tho. Alablastr' ..	1	2s.	2	8d.	—	—	—	2s. 8d.	—	
Robt. Allen ..	2	4s.	25	8s. 4d.	3	6d.	12d.	13s. 10d.	12d.	
Willm. Jewler ..	1	2s.	14	4s. 8d.	1	2d.	12d.	7s. 10d.	12d.	
Bartram Mason	2	4s.	5	20d.	1	2d.	12d.	6s. 10d.	12d.	
Jo: Bretinghm ..	—	—	6	2s.	—	—	—	2s.	—	
Richard flairfex	—	—	3	12d.	—	—	—	12d.	—	
John Wyther ..	—	—	2½	10d.	—	—	—	10d.	—	
Lawrence Wygnal	—	—	1½	6d.	—	—	—	6d.	—	
Wm. Riseborowghe	—	—	2	8d.	—	—	—	8d.	—	
Jo: Spicer ..	—	—	1	4d.	—	—	—	4d.	—	

46s. 1½d.

THE LAST SURVIVALS OF VILLEINAGE.

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John Cawston ..	1	2s.	9	3s. 4d.	2	4d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	6d. 6d. 12d.	5s. 10d. 10d. 6s 4d.
George Spillman	—	—	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	—
Jerom Cawston..	1	2s.	9	3s.	2	4d.	—	12d.	6s 4d.
Thoms Benington theldr.	1	2s.	2	8d.	1	2d.	$\frac{1}{2}$	12d.	3s. 10d.
Tho: Colby ..	1	2s.	1	4d.	1	2d.	—	—	2s. 6d.
Jo: Margetson ..	1	2s.	4	16d.	1	2d.	—	—	3s. 6d.
Tho: Gryme ..	1	2s.	12	4s.	3	6d.	1	2s.	8s. 6d.
Tho: Dowhtie..	1	2s.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3s. 6d.	2	4d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	12d.	6s. 10d.
Tho: Blowfelde	1	2s.	10	3s. 4d.	2	4d.	—	12d.	6s. 8d.
George Love ..	—	—	2	8d.	—	—	—	—	8d.
Robt Bateman ..	1	2s.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3s. 6d.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3d.	—	—	5s. 8d.
Tho: Wasey ..	1	2s.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	18d.	1	2d.	$\frac{1}{2}$	12d.	4s. 8d.
The Wydow Wasey	1	2s.	2	8d.	1	2d.	—	—	2s. 10d.
Nichas Purdy ..	1	2s.	10	3s. 4d.	2	4d.	1	2s.	7s. 8d.
James Allen ..	—	—	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	4d.
Robt Hollond theldr.	—	—	2	8d.	—	—	—	—	8d.
Robt Glouer ..	—	—	2	8d.	—	—	—	—	8d.
Wm. Dowhtye..	1	2s.	6	2s.	1	2d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	4s. 8d.
Jo: Bateman ..	—	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	14d.	1	2d.	—	6d.	22d.
Jo: Hobbes ..	—	—	1	4d.	1	2d.	—	—	6d.
Rowland Tompson	1	2s.	6	2s.	1	2d.	—	—	4s. 2d.
James Haristong	—	—	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	4d.
Jo: Bakar ..	—	—	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	4d.
Richard Bradfelde	—	—	1	16d.	—	2d.	—	12d.	2s. 6d.
Robt Slapp "for hollonds"	—	—	4	—	1	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Thoms flight ..	1	2s.	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	4d.
Robt Attwood ..	—	—	5	3s. 8d. 2od.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1	3d. 2d.	$\frac{1}{2}$	12d. —	6s. 11d. 22d.

Name of Tenant.	Ploughs	Price	Harvest Works	Price	Weedings	Price	"Carts"	Price	Total
Katherin Streke	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	2d.	1	2d.	—	—	4d.
Robt Howse	—	—	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	4d.
Thoms Marrett..	1	2s.	2	8d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 8d.
John Willson, <i>clerke</i> , "for the late lande Jaram Cawston & before Thoms Wasies"	—	—	1	4d.	—	—	—	—	4d.
<i>Sum total of all works done and undone</i>									
<i>PASTON.</i>									
James Isacke	1	2s.	2	8d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 8d.
Tho: Browne	2	4s.	6	2s.	—	—	—	—	6s.
J. Harm[er]	1	2s.	2	8d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 8d.
Wm. Betar	1	2s.	2	8d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 8d.
Jo: Hubbard	1	2s.	4	16d.	—	—	—	—	3s. 4d.
Thoms Calke	1	2s.	3	12d.	—	—	—	—	3s.
Tho: Leache	2	4s.	5	22d.	—	—	—	—	5s. 10d.
J. Sower..	1	2s.	7	2s. 4d.	—	—	—	—	4s. 4d.
Xpofer Claidon..	1	2s.	6	2s.	—	—	—	—	4s.
Wm. Paine	1	2s.	3	12d.	—	—	—	—	3s.
J. Garen..	1	2s.	3	12d.	—	—	—	—	3s.
J. Bond & Roger Bond	—	—	8	2s. 8d.	—	—	—	—	2s. 8d.
Sum 43s. 2d.	Sum total of all works done and undone ..								

A summary follows the above detailed list.

[PLOUGHS.]		“A note of all suche servics As ar belonging to the mann ^r of Gymyngm w th in the whole Soken ther In primis the whole some of all the plowghes wythe ther	
Gymyngham.	Itm the price of the ploe doe Amount unto	}	
	harrowes to be don ther be xij ploe	}	24s.
Trymi'gh.	Itm the ploe w th their harrowes that be don ther be	}	11
	The price of the said ploe is—	}	22s.
Trunche.	Itm the ploe w th ther harrowes w ^{ch} ar don ther ar	}	23
	The price of those ploe ys	}	46s.
Sowthr.	Itm the ploe w th ther harrowes that be don there ar	}	16
	The price of ther ploe is	}	32s.
Monsley.	Itm the ploe w th ther harrowes that be done ther be	}	17
	The price of those ploe ys	}	34s.
Paston	Itm the plowghes ther w th ther harrowghes be	}	13
	The price of those ploe be	}	26s.

Sma total pecunie 9li. 4s.

[WORKS WITHOUT FOOD, 4d. and 1d. EACH.]	Gymi'ghm	W'	{	In p is the whole some ther is	Lxiiij.
	sine cibo			The price of the W ^r .	21s.
				Also of lost W ^r s 25 pric	2s. jd.
	Trymi'ghm		{	Itm the whole some is 30 p'ce	10s.
	Works.			Itm of lost W ^r s 15 di cu' Sydestr' ⁶	15d. ob
	Trunche W ^r		{	Itm the whole some ys ^{xx} 9.2 ⁷ [182]	
	sine cibo			The price is	3li. 8d.
	Sowthr W ^r		{	Itm the whole some of W ^r ther is	
	sine cibo			^{xx} 6.17 di (137½) price	xlvj. xd.
	Monsley W ^r		{	Itm the whole some of W ^r ther ys ²⁰ 6.1	
	sine cibo			[121] price	40s.
				Itm of the W ^r s ther Undon 48	4s.
				[sic. Apparently some of these works were price 1d. only].	
	Paston sine cibo		{	Itm the whole some of the Works ther	
				is Lj di [51½] price	17s. 2d.
				Itm of lost W ^r s ther xjx di (19½) p'ce	xix ob.
				Sma	xli. ijs. 8d.

6. i.e., “15½ with Sidestrand.”

7. i.e., nine score and two.

[WORKS
WITH FOOD,
1d. EACH.]

		In p'is the whole some of works ther w th meate of the lorde ys xlv pric	3s. 9d.
Gymi'ghm opa ad cibn' Dni	}	I precarijs et halm' [precariæ & Hal- mers] 48	4s.
		Itm one Carte e a qu'ter lost	2s. 6d.
Trimi'ghm opa ad cibm Dni	}	Itm the whole some of halm's & p'cars is 42—pric	3s. 6d.
Trunche opa ad cibn Dni	}	The whole some of the W's ther is [sic] 72 pric'	6s. 8d. [sic]
		I lovebynes æ halm's ²⁰ / ₄ [80] p'ce	6s. 8d.
Sowth opa ad cibn dni	}	Itm the whole some ther is 67 p'ce.	5s. 7d.
		I lovebynes et halm's 72 p'ce.	6s.
Monsley opa ad cibn dni	}	The whole some ther ys 89di [sic] p'ce	7s. 5d.
		I louebynes & halm's 78 p'ce	6s. 6d.
Paston opa ad cibn dui	}	The whole some ther is 10 di. p'ce	10d. ob
		I lowbynes 23 p'ce	23d.
		Sma liiij. 9d. [sic] 10d. ob.	

[WEEDING
WORKS,
and 2d. EACH.]

Id. Opa sarcul in Gymyghm	}	In p'is the whole some ther is 34. Whereof 13 don price	2s. 2d.
		And 21 not don price	21d.
Opa sare in Try- mi'gh	}	Itm the whole some of wed ther is 21 whereof 17 don pric'	2s. 10d.
		& 4 not don 4d.	3s. 2d.
opa sc in Sowthr	}	The whole some of wed ther is 36. Whereof 27 don 4s. 6d. [sic] And 9 not don ix ^d .	vs. iiij ^d .
Opa sc in Trunche	}	The whole some ther is 40. Whereof don 29. pric' 4s. 10d. And xj not don pric' xj ^d .	5s.
Opa sc in Mons- ley	}	Itm the whole some ther is 39. Where- of don 16 di [16½] pric ijs. viij ^d .	
		And 23 not don pric 23d.	4s. 8d.
Paston sarcul	}	Itm the whole some ther is 24 p'c	2s.
		Sme 24s. [and 1d.]	

[CARTING
WORKS, 2s.
EACH]

Gymi'ghm	}	In p'is the whole some ther of all the	
Cartes		cartes don be 2.3 qrts.	5s. 6d.
		Itm one carte & qrt ^r . lost	ijs. vjd.
Trunche Carts		The whole some ther is 9 p'ce	18s.
Sowth' Carts		The whole some ther is 6 di. p'ce	13s.
Trymi'ghm	}	The whole some ther is 2 carts don	
Carts		p'ce 4s. & one lost 2s.	6s.
Monisley Carts	}	The whole some ther is 6 qrt ^r .	12s.
		And a qrt ^r . of a carte loste	6d.
Sme 42s. 6d. [sic]			

It is evident from the above lists that the tenants of North Repps, Sidestrand and Hulver did not render as many services as did the rest of the tenants. I think that in the case of North Repps the harvest works had been commuted, and certainly in 1552 it was affirmed that "they had not donne the said works for the space of ij hundrith yeres, but compounded for the same." Colour is lent to this contention of the tenants by an entry on folio 2 of the Manor Book already quoted.

"xxiiij Anno Henrici vij the[re] was made compl'[aint] by the tents of North [Repps] to the counsaile & then had remedie.

I redd sz andr apo^s [at St. Andrew the Apostle].....vj*d*. ob *qr*.
 I redd ad purific [at the Purification].....xxs. iij*d*. *qr*.
 I redd ad pentic [at Pentecost].....xvs. iij*d*.
 I redd Michis [at Michaelmas].....vjs. ob *qr*.
 I redd incre^s [increase] rent.....j*d*.
 I com' auxiliij ad ffm Michis [Common Aid at the Feast of Michaelmas] 39s. 4d.
 I tretur ad ff sc Andr [at the Feast of St. Andrew].....xvi*d*."

I think that the above-mentioned quarterly rent may well have been in lieu of services. It was evidently some arrangement peculiar to North Repps, for there is no note of anything of the kind in the other villis, all of which (except Sidestrand) rendered their bond works in a normal manner.

In the case of Sidestrand it is probable that apart from a certain number of services which we know were commuted for money, there may have been other works which were due to the manor of Sydestrond-Poynings and not to Gimingham-Lancaster, and which would therefore be unrecorded in the Gimingham books and rolls.

Hulver, of course, was merely an outlying block of land attached to the Soke, and was not a township, and therefore it is not surprising to find it rendering but few services.

North Repps, Sidestrand and Hulver are placed together in this section of the Manor Book, the extract being as follows:—

"Northr' The whole some of works ther to be		
don are 31 p'ce		10s.
Sydestrod. The workes that ar to be done ar 21		
di p'ce		5s. 2d.
Hulu' Shifte. The workes that ar ther to be don		
are 17 price		3s. 4d.
Sma 18s. 6d."		

After the particulars relating to North Repps, Sidestrand and Hulver come the remaining dues and services rendered by the whole Soke. Mowing the lord's hay was regarded as an extra work, with a special rate of pay.

"Monie to be paid for hey mowyng in East Crofte.		
Gymyngh' In p'is	2s.	3d.
Try Itm	8d.	ob.
Sydestr Itm	18d.	
Northr Itm	17d.	
Sowthr Itm	4s.	11d.
Trunche Itm.....	3s.	9d. ob.
Monisley Itm.....	3s.	3d.
Sma 17s. 9d. [sic]		

[CARRYING WORKS].⁸

Gyminghm. In p'is for compas carieng.....	4s.
Triminghm. Itm for compas carienge.....	2od.
Sowthrepps. Itm for compas carienge.....	4s.
Trunche. Itm for compas carienge.....	4s.
Monisley. Itm for compas carienge.....	4s.
Northrepps. Itm for compas carienge.....	2s.
Sma 19s. 8d.	

These lists of services conclude with a memorandum of certain rents in kind.

"Barley to be paid to the ffermor:

Paston: The heires of Robt Bonde of Paston.....	j combe
Gyminghm: Willm jewler of Gymi'ghm.....	2 bz. [bushells]
Sowthrepps: The heires of Thoms Slapp	5 bz.
Sma ordeí 2 Combes 3 bz."	

The enumeration of the bond works is followed by a long list of Lancetti rents. It will be remembered that the Lancetti tenants

8. A distinction is to be made between the "carect" or carting work in harvest, which was valued at 2s., and the "average" or carrying work, valued at 3d.

held by a special kind of bond tenure, which unfortunately is not definitely described in any of the Gimingham records. The money rents which were rendered for the Lancetti holdings in 1580 were probably paid in commutation of the services which in earlier times had attached to them. In this particular year 31s. 4½d. is paid by eight tenants in Gimingham (of which John Gogull, Gent, contributes 6s. and Xxian Gryme, Wydow, 7s. 4d.), 19s. 11½d. by six tenants in South Repps, 16s. 10¾d., by seven tenants in Trunch, 12s. 3d., by eleven tenants in Mundesley (including 5s. 4¾d. from Thomas Doods), 4s. 10½d. by three tenants in Knapton and 2s. 11¼d. by four tenants in Trimingham, making a total of £4 8s. 3¾d. for Lancetti rents for one year.

The Lancetti rents and the barley payments were evidently reckoned in with the bond works and at the end of this series of accounts is written, "Sma total cu' oibz alijs opibz facto et amiss^o 28li. 12s. 4d. ob *gr.* et cum lancets et ordio."

Certain of the bond works were excused to the wickners as a kind of payment for their office, and they were also allowed a small salary derived from charges on the different Houses. "I it is to be noted that y^e wigners of Gymi'ghm, Trunche, Sowthrepps, Monisley, & Trymi'ghm ar alwaies to have allowance of ther office for their suice [service] belonginge to their office Viz the wign' of Gymi'ghm. 8 daies sine cibo. 4 daies ad cibn & di (½) carte wth a plo(ugh). the wign's of Trunche, Sowthrepps & Monisley & Trymi'ghm ar to have the like allowances." In subsequent lists "allowances" for the wickners occur frequently.

The quarterly rents take up the next four folios of the Manor Book, but on f.16 we get further particulars of bond services in the shape of an undated list of all the Autumn works, which may be summarised as follows:—

PLACE.	NUMBER OF TENANTS.	AUTUMN WORKS.
Gimingham.	16	68½
Trimingham.	15	32½
Trunch.	27	174
South Repps.	24	137½
North Repps.	—	30
Sidestrand.	—	11
Hulver.	—	17
Mundesley.	19	124
Paston.	15	52

Making a total of $646\frac{1}{2}$ Autumn Works for the whole Soke. On f.20d. we get another series of returns of bond services which apparently belongs to another year, although no fresh date is given. In these lists the price of all the works is lower than in the foregoing ones, viz., weedings are here $\frac{3}{4}$ d. instead of 1d., works without food 1d. instead of 4d., works with food $\frac{1}{2}$ d. instead of 1d., "precaria" and "Halmers" $\frac{1}{2}$ d. instead of 1d., carting works 6d. instead of 2s., whilst 3d. is still the price of another form of carting, the average. Taking these and other differences into account it seems worth while to print in full tabular form this second batch of lists.

[Abstract in translation].

WORKS.	NUMBER.	PRICE OF THE WORK.	TOTAL.
GIMINGHAM			
Weedings	34	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	2s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Mowings in the lord's meadow in Estcroft ...	—	—	2s. 2d.
Autumn works, without food	88	1d.	7s. 4d.
Works, with food of the lord	45	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	$22\frac{1}{2}$ d.
"Precaria" [boon days] in Autumn	24	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	12d.
"Halmers" [boon days] in Autumn	24	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	12d.
Carriage of the lord's corn, [4 <i>carect</i>] ⁹	4	6d.	2s.
Averages at the Feast of St. Michael the Arch- angel	18	3d.	4s. 6d.
Sma'—22s. [sic]			
<i>Allowances.</i>			
Allowed to the wickner of Gimmingham:—			
Without food	8	8d.	
Half days without food	4	2d.	
Half a cart in autumn ...	$\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	Sum allowed
One average	1	3d.	16d.

9. "Carect" = *correcta*, a cart, *correctata*, a cartload.

WORKS.	NUMBER.	PRICE OF THE WORK.	TOTAL.
TRIMINGHAM.			
Weedings	21	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
Mowings in the lord's meadow in Estcroft ...	—	—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Autumn works	43	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
"Precariæ"	21	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (sic)
"Halmers"	21	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Cartings ["Carect"] ...	3	6d.	18d.
Averages at Michaelmas Sum 11s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	16	3d.	4s.
<i>Allowed to the wickner there</i>			
Works	4	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2d.
Half a cart	$\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	3d.
Average	1	3d.	3d.
"Allowed to William Becke."			Sum allowed 8d.
NORTH REPPS.			
No weedings	—	—	—
Mowings in the meadow ...	—	—	17d.
Autumn works	30	1d.	2s. 6d.
Works with food	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
"Halmers"	11	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Averages	9	3d.	2s. 3d.
Sum'—6s 8d.			
<i>Allowed to the wickner there</i>			
One average	1	3d.	3d.
SIDESTRAND.			
[The Sidestrand accounts are drawn up on a differ- ent plan, a certain Nicho- las de Toune being answerable for the works. He was probably the wickner].			
Weedings, ["of Nicholas de Toune"].	2	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	1d., $\frac{3}{4}$ d., $\frac{1}{2}$ (sic)
Mowings in the meadow in Estcroft	—	—	18d.

WORKS.	NUMBER.	PRICE OF THE WORK.	TOTAL.
Autumn works, without food	9	1d.	9d.
Works, with food	4	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2d.
To Nicholas de Toune for the ploughing of 1 acre of land at the sowing of barley	—	—	6d.
Carts	—	—	8d.
Averages at the Feast of St. Michael the Arch- angel	6	3d.	18d.
[? Allowed] to Nicholas de Toune	—	—	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Sum'—5s. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. $\frac{1}{2}$.			
SOUTH REPPS.			
Weedings	36	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	2s. 3d.
Mowings in the meadow in Estcroft	—	—	4s. 11d.
Autumn works, without food	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	1d.	11s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Works, with food	67	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Works, "lovebenns" [boon days]	36	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	18d.
"Halmers"	36	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	18d.
Carts	7	6d.	3s. 6d.
Averages	22	3d.	5s. 6d.
Sum'—33s. 4d.			
<i>Allowed to the wickner there</i>			
Works, without food	8	1d.	8d.
Works, with food	4	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2d.
Half a cart	$\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	3d.
One Average	1	3d.	3d.
			Sum allowed 1s. 4d.
TRUNCH.			
Weedings	40	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	2s. 6d.
Mowings in the meadow in Estcroft			3s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

WORKS.	NUMBER.	PRICE OF THE WORK.	TOTAL.
Autumn works, without food	133	1d.	11s. 1d.
Works, with food	72	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3s.
"Lovebenes"	40	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	20d.
"Halmers"	40	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	20d.
Carts	9	6d.	4s. 6d.
Averages	27	3d.	6s. 9d.
Sum'—34s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.			
<i>Allowed to the wickner there</i>			
Works, without food	8	1d.	8d.
Works, with food	4	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2d.
Half a cart	$\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	3d.
One Average	1	3d.	3d.
			Sum allowed 1s. 4d.
MUNDESLEY.			
Weedings	39	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	2s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (sic for 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.).
Mowings in the meadow in Estcroft	—	—	3s. 3d.
Autumn works, without food	168	1d.	14s.
Works, with food	88	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3s. 8d.
"Lovebenns"	39	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
"Halmers"	39	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Carts	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	3s. 3d.
Averages	19	3d.	4s. 9d.
Sum'—34s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.			
<i>Allowed to the wickner there</i>			
Works, without food	8	1d.	8d.
Works, with food	4	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2d.
Half a cart	$\frac{1}{2}$	6d.	3d.
One average	1	3d.	3d.
One average Will Chylde "for the aforesaid Willo Chylde 6 works without food"	1	—	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. [sic]
"for the aforesaid Willo 4 with food"	6	1d.	6d.
"for the aforesaid Willo 4 with food"	4	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2d.

WORKS.	NUMBER.	PRICE OF THE WORK.	TOTAL.
"for the aforesaid Willo the sixth part of one carect" Sum'—2s. 3½d. [sic for ¼d.]	1/6	6d.	1d. Sum allowed 2s. 3¼d.
PASTON.			
Weedings	34	¾d.	18d. [sic]
Autumn works, with food of the lord	71	½d.	2s. 11d. [sic]
"Works with food called lovebenes"	23	½d.	11½d.
Averages	22	3d.	5s. 6d.
Sum'—10s. 11½d. (sic)			
<i>Allowed to the wickner there</i>			
Work, with food	1	½d.	½d.
One Average	1	—	2d.
One Average	1	—	3d.
			Sum allowed 5½d.
HULVER.			
Autumn works	17	1d.	17d.
Average in North Walsham Sum'—2s. 11d.	1 [sic]	—	18d.
<i>Allowed to the wickner there</i>			
Works, with food	2	½d.	1d.
Sum total of everything ...	£8.2.3¾.		
Sum of all allowances specified above	7s. 7d.		
And remains	£7.14.5 (sic)		
Allowance to the messor for his office	3.6.		
Salary of the messor [<i>sti-</i> <i>pendio messoris</i>]	2.0.		
And for averages "soldt" ["solut"] of the reeve ...	34.10.		
And remains	114.4¾		
		(£5.14.4¾.)	

It would be idle to pretend that *all* these many bond services were actually executed by the tenants, yet it is equally clear that in the 16th century they were most of them still liable by their tenure either to work so many days for the lord or else to compound for them with the wickner. Bond tenure was still a very real thing, and I do not think that the bond tenants of Queen Elizabeth's reign would have allowed for a moment that it was merely a legal fiction. And after all, in the Gimmingham Court Rolls of only a few years before (21 Henry VIII.), we find them paying to the lord merchet and chevage, and all the old dues which were the very essence of bondage.

As a matter of fact one of the "Requests and Demands of Robert Ket and his accomplices" in 1542 ran "we pray that all bondmen be made free, for God made all men free with His precious bloodshedding." Their plea for freedom on religious grounds struck a note typical of the century of the Reformation, with its continual insistence on the rights of the individual, and even though Ket and his friends were no more successful than was Lyster in 1381, still they had voiced grievances which the spirit of the age was bound to see redressed. Little seems to have been done for the bondmen in the reign of Edward VI., but with the accession of Elizabeth begins a new phase in their history. The shrewd Queen saw clearly that bondage was not consistent with the ideals of the period, and was full of pious sentiments as to the freedom of all men in the sight of God, but she also realised that there was a substantial pecuniary profit to be made out of the manumission of the remaining villeins on her estates. Curiously enough, the Royal and Duchy of Lancaster manors¹⁰ were slower in enfranchising their bondmen than were the private lords, who seem to have permitted the gradual lapse of bondage in their manors. We know that in the Soke of Gimmingham there were plenty of bondmen at the date of Elizabeth's accession, and we may take it that this Duchy of Lancaster manor was in no sense an exceptional case, for there were many other Duchy and Crown manors in which villeinage continued to flourish in the 16th century. At that date the lord was still regarded as the legal owner, not only of the bondman's holding, but also of his person, his goods and chattels, and was also responsible for his debts both owing and owed. As a natural sequence the lord could, in theory, claim all or any of his bond tenants'

10. "In the Duchy of Lancaster bondmen preserved their servile condition longer as a class than in any other part of England. Large numbers were emancipated in the reign of Elizabeth, on payment of an extortionate fine to a royal patentee." S. Armitage Smith, *John of Gaunt*, p. 214.

possessions in return for compulsory enfranchisement. In a series of commissions directed at various times by Queen Elizabeth to certain of her courtiers, this theory is enlarged upon, the Queen asserting her legal right to all or part of her bondmen's goods in exchange for charters of manumission. This privilege she farmed out to her grantees, and it can well be imagined how disastrous the arrangement must have been from the point of view of the unfortunate bondmen if the courtier chanced to be both greedy and unscrupulous. The poor villein was given no opportunity to refuse enfranchisement, for it was further enacted that failure to agree with the Queen's agent as to the terms of manumission rendered the bondman liable to complete and entire forfeiture. As Mr. Savine has said, "The enfranchisement of the last bondmen was a paying policy."¹¹

The method of procedure is admirably illustrated in the case of the Soke of Gimingham. The Queen had granted to Sir Henry Lee, Knight, the privilege of freeing three hundred bondmen in her Duchy of Lancaster, and of those enfranchised by him forty-four were *regardant* to Gimingham.

The stigma of even a nominal servitude was not to be tolerated in the 16th century, and the tendency of the villeins in Gimingham and elsewhere was to move beyond the confines of the manor, at first paying *chevage*, as the Court Rolls show, but as time goes on concealing their status and gradually becoming completely lost to the manor.

The principal duty of the Queen's agents was to seek out these *concealed bondmen*, to prove their villeinage, and to extract from them as large a sum as possible in return for their compulsory enfranchisement. To assist the commissioners in fixing the latter point, inventories of their possessions were compiled for the purpose of deciding how much each villein could be made to pay.

The status of bondmen varied considerably, and it is interesting to compare three very different inventories of the goods of Gimingham bondmen, viz., of a farmer, a fisherman and a prosperous Norwich weaver.

**¹²INVENTORY OF THE LANDS AND GOODS OF
THOMAS CALKE OF PASTON, NORFOLK, WILLIAM
CALKE OF THE SAME. AND HENRY CALKE OF BAC-
TEN, NORFOLK, BEING BONDMEN OR VILLEINS RE-**

11. *Bondmen under the Tudors*, by Alexander Savine. *Trans. of the R. Historical So.* N.S. Vol. XVIII., p. 270.

12. *Society in Elizabethan Age*. H. Hall. p. 158. No reference is given to the original document.

GUARDANT TO HER MAJESTY'S MANOR OF GIMINGHAM. BY VIRTUE OF A COMMISSION DIRECTED TO SR. T. WODEHOUSE, W. PASTON AND P. READ,¹³ ESQUIRES, DATED 26 SEPR. 4 ELIZ.

Thomas Calke¹⁴ is seised in his demesne by Copy of Court Roll of one Tenement and 28 Acr. 1 Rood of H.M. Manor of Gimingham, paying therefore to the lord of the said manor in bond-rent yearly, 10s. in money and 3½ days' work with the plough and 2 days with the harrow and 3 days in harvest, which said holding is worth by the year 20s. clear.

STOCK UPON THE SAID LANDS.

6 milch neat at 20/—10 ewes at 3/4—10 lambs at 20d.—2 geldings for the cart value £3—3 mares value £3.10.—6 swine value 15/—6 pigs value 4/—6 geese value 2/— 20 hens and 1 cock value 5/-.

CROPS UPON THE SAID LANDS.

Wheat growing on 4 acres, 50/—Barley growing upon 6 acres 40/—Oats growing upon 6 acres, and Pease upon 4 acres, 50/-.

GOODS OF THE SAID THOMAS CALKE.

A brass pot and a potnet, 6/8—2 pewter dishes, 3 pewter platters, 2 saucers, 4 trencher platters, and 6 trencher dishes, 6/—2 brass kettles, 7/4—2 old pans, 20d.—2 candlesticks and a chafing-dish 2/8—8 bowls of wood, 12 trenchers, 12 trencher-spoons, 2/4—1 old feather bed, 1 flock bed, 1 mattress, 16/8—4 pairs canvas sheets, 10/8—3 bedsteads, 2/—1 blandlet, 1 pair pot hooks, 10d.—tables and stools, 3/4—1 cart, 1 tumbrell, 20/—4 horse collars, 4 cart traces, 5/—1 plough, 1 pair harrows, 1 pair plough traces, 6/8.

DEBTS OF THE SAID THOMAS CALKE.

Sums of £12, £3 6s. 8d., £2, £1—in all £18 6s. 8d. William Calke is aged one year and has neither lands nor goods.

Henry has no lands, but has the following goods:—1 bedstead, 1 pair sheets, 1 coverlet, 5/—1 kettle, 1 brake pot, 2 trencher platters, 1 brandlet, 2 bowls, 3/—1 milch cow, 20/— Total 28/-.

13. Peter Read was at that time lessee of the manor of Gimingham-Lancaster, to which a portion of Paston was appendant.

14. Thomas Calke held the typical villein holding of a virgate or thereabouts. The family of Calke had long been resident in Paston. Thomas Calke was church-warden there in 1590, and he and eight others of his name were buried there in 1626. Later on the surname was spelt *Corke*, and in that form it still survives in the district, being especially common in Overstrand.

15“THE CERTIFICAT OF THOMAS SYDNEY AND PETER READE OF ALL SUCHE GOODS LONDS CAT-TELS (ETC:) IN POSSESSION OF . . . WILLIAM PACKEMAN OF MONNDESLEY IN THE COUNTYE OF NORFOLK FYSHERMAN BEINGE BONDMAN AND VYL-LAYNE REGARDAUNTE TO THE QUENES MA^{tios} MAN-NOR OF GYMYNGHAM” ETC: SEP. 22nd. 6 ELIZ.

“Imprimis one coveringe of a bedd.....	2s.
Itm. one payer of sheytts	3s. 4d.
Itm. one owlde sheyt	16d.
Itm. two Transomes and fower Quyssons	8s.
Itm. Three olde brase potts	10s.
Itm. fower kettelles	10s.
Itm. fower pewter platters and Syxe Sawerers.....	8s.
Itm. One Stondell and pomell	6d.
Itm. on kishen Dyshes thre tryen platters and a dozen of Trenchers	6d.
Itm. a Brondelet	8d.
Itm. thre Stooles	6d.

Also the sayd Willm Packeman hath neyther in possessyon or re-versyons anye londe holden by coppe or by fre deede or Charter . . . nor any Cattell or other movable other than is above expressed . . . (which) ought of right to come to our hands and possessions” . . .

16“AN INVENTORYE AS WELL OF ALL SUCHE LANDS TENEMENTS RENTS FFEARMES GOODS CHAT-TELS IMPLEMENTS AND HOWSOLD STUFF AS ARE IN THE TENURE AND POSSESSYON AND OCCUPAY-CON OF JOHN KYNG THE ELDER OF NORWICHE DORNEX¹⁷ WEVER. AS ALSO OF ALL SUCHE DEBTS AND SUMES OF MONYE AS WELL DUE (AS) OWYNG TO THE SEID JOHN KYNG . . . TAKEN AND MADE THE TENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER IN THE YERE OF OUR LORD A THOUSAND FFYVE HUNDREDD AND SIXTY SEVEN AND IN THE NYNETH OF THE REGNE OF OUR SOVEREYNE . . . BY DREW DREWRY PETER READ AND HENRY BACON ESQUYERS AND HAMOND CLAXTON GENT.

15. *D. of L. Special Commission*, 106.

16. *D. of L. Special Commission*, 157. I have here omitted the preamble referring to John King as bondman regardant to Gimingham, etc.

17. *Dornex* = “an inferior kind of damask, wrought of silk, wool, linen, thread, and gold in Flanders, from the town of Dorneck (Tournai.)” It was often used for Copes.

Imprimis twoo Tenements in the Parrisshe of St. Mary Coslanye in one of whiche Tents the seid John Kyng inhabyteth whiche is worthe to lett by yere 40s. And in the other Tent one Charles Harman A Dutchman inhabyteth and is also worth to lett by yere 40s. whiche two Tents be woorth to be sold together £24.

In the hall

One ould Table with a ffournie woorth 12d.

In the Parlour

One little Table with a Stoole One long Stoole ij chayers, One chest and one cuppboarde 4s.

In the kitchyn

One skellett ij Brasse potts ij hangyng kettles, One Chaffyng dysse of lattyn half a dozen pewter Platters ij pewter disshes iiij Pewter Sawcers, One Spytt One drepynge Pan One ffryeng Pan and one Gredyon. 20s.

In the Buttrye.

One Salt Seller of Pewter ij candill Stycks of latten and certeyne ould Stooles. 2s.

In the Parlor Chamber.

Twoo Beddstedds ij ffetherbedds ij ould coovering ij ould Chests One little chest ij turnyd Chayers vj payer of Sheetes and ij Table Clothes 60s.

In the Chamber over ye gate.

Twoo beddstedds One Truckle Bedd One little Counter ij ould Coffers ij cooverings one ffether bedd 40s.

In the Chamber over the Buttrye.

One Beddstedd One Round Table One ould Cuppboard One ould Coovering one ould Donge and one ould Bowlster 3s. 4d.

In the Shopp.

Imprimis iiij Dornex Loomes 13s. 4d.
Itm. in warp and stuff to make dornecks with 10 li.

Detts to John Kyng.

Imprimis by Henry Spucer 60s.
Itm. by Reynold Strowgar of Dereham 9 li.
Itm. by Thomas Speucer of Catton. 40s.
Itm. by Morgan kyches of London 100s.
Itm. by John Storey of Southwark. 33s. 4d.

In Tolis. of all the Landes Tenements Rents ffearmes
 Goods Chattells Implements housold stuff and
 Debts above mencyoned } ¹⁸ 117 li.
 17s.

Detts Owyng by the Abouvemencyoned John Kyng as
 followeth

Imprimis to Humprey kunt by obligacon for one of
 the Tenements in St. Maryes parrisshe whereof
 x li. was due at Michaelmas last, x li. at Mychell-
 mas next and 10 li. at Michaelmas in ye yere of
 or. Lord God 1569¹⁹ } 30 li.

Itm. to Mr. hamond Claxton due by specyaltie at
 the ffeast of Sr. Andrew the Apostle next comyng } 10 li.

Itm. to the Mayor Shrevie cittezens and Coialtie of
 Norwiche due by obligacon at Christmas next } 11 li.

(and nineteen other debts of various amounts making a total of
 £94 4s. od.).

Probably these three families were all manumitted shortly after the drafting of the inventories, but I have only come across the deeds of enfranchisement relating to the Calkes and William Packeman, dated respectively 5 Eliz. and 6 Eliz.²⁰

Two years later another Gimingham bond family was manumitted—the Allyns of Snyderley alias Blakeney,²¹ who like John Kyng were resident outside the manor.

The manumissions subsequently to be noted are all part of Sir Henry Lee's grants. Queen Elizabeth first empowered him to free one hundred bondmen by a deed dated Jan. 7th, 17 Eliz., and on June 21st of the same year she gave him an additional two hundred. He made good use of the powers conferred upon him, and took immediate steps to search out concealed bondmen, besides making more than one attempt to prove that a free family was bond.

Sir Henry Lee's manumissions fill Volume 102 of the Duchy of Lancaster Miscellaneous Books and Bundle 13, No. 19, of the Duchy of Lancaster Miscellanea, all in the Public Record Office. A large number of these deeds refer to bondmen regardant to the manor of Gimingham,²² for in this one manor alone Sir Henry Lee was responsible for the enfranchisement of some twenty families.

18. The reckoning here must be very faulty unless several additional items have been omitted in the account.

19. Probably a mortgage.

20. *D. of L. Misc.*, ¹³/₁₀.

21. *Ibid.*

22. Others refer to Longbenyngton and Ingoldmells, Lincs., Kingston-Lacey, Dorset, etc.

As the phraseology of the documents is curious with its strong undercurrent of Elizabethan piety, it may be of interest to reproduce a specimen charter of manumission. The case chosen for quotation is an interesting and unusual one for it shows a bondwoman married to a freeman within the manor.

²³“WHEREAS the Quene’s most excellent Ma^{tie} by her grace’s lres (letters) pattents under her Seale of her Duchie of Lancaster bearing date the twenty first day June in the xvijth yere of her Ma^{tie} Regne hath named and appointed me Henry Lee Knyght her Ma^{tie} Comission^r to enquire of all her Ma^{ties} bondmen and bondwomen wth their children and sequeles wth their goods cattells landes tents and hereditaments w^{thn} this Realm of England and Wales whereunto her Ma^{tie} maye in any wise be intitled as in the right of her said Duchie And that further grannted by the said lres patents to me the said Sr. Henry Lee full power & authority to accepte receive and admitte to be mannumysed and enfranchysed such hundred of her bondmen & bondwomen in blood wth All or any their children and Sequeles as be bondemen in grosse or regardaunte to any her Manors landes tents possessions or hereditamts. pcells of her said Duchie Whereuppon for my certificate and warrant to the said right honorable her Ma^{ties} Chancellor of her said Duchie BEE yt knowne to the same by theise pntes that I the said Sr. Henry Lee have by inquirye caused to be founde owte theis bonde in blood whose names hereafter followe (that is to saye) Margaret Cawston wife of Jerome Cawston of Southreppes in the Countye of Norff, yeoman, daughter of a certain William Powle, late of Southreppes deceased bondman of the blood regardaunte to the mannor of Gymynghm wch are founde to be bonde of blood regardaunte to the Quenes highnes mannor of Gymyngh^m in the said Countye of Norff pcell of the possessions of her Ma^{ties} said Duchie of Lancaster of wch nomber the said Sr. Henry Lee have accepted received and admitted the aforesaid Margaret Cawston as one bondewomen of the said nomber wth her posterity and sequels to be mannumitted enfranchised & made free by the authority aforesaid & IN witnes whereof DATED the twenty eighth daye of November in the xvijth yere of the Reigne of o^r Sovereigne Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of England.

²⁴THE QUEEN, etc., to all to whom etc., GREETING. WHEREAS from the beginning God created all men free by nature, and afterwards the law of man placed some under the yoke of servi-

23. *D. of L. Misc., Bk., 102.*

24. Translation from the Latin, *D. of L. Miscellaneous Books, 102, pp. 24-25.*

tude, we believe it to be a pious thing, and acceptable to God and consonant with christian charity, to make wholly free certain who have been thrown into villanage to us, our heirs and successors, and bound in servitude. KNOW YE therefore that we, moved by piety, and at the humble petition and special request of our beloved servant, Sir Henry Lee, otherwise Lea, knight, according to the warrant by us to the same Henry made, under the seal of our Duchy of Lancaster, and by bill signed by our hand, of which warrant the date is the 21st day of June in the seventeenth year of our reign (A.D. 1575), of our especial grace, and of certain knowledge and mere motion, for us, our heirs and successors, have manumitted and made free, and by these presents do manumit and make free, Margaret Cawston, wife of Jeremy Cawston, of Southreppes in the county of Norfolk, yeoman, daughter of a certain William Powle, late of Southreppes aforesaid, deceased, bondman of the blood regardaunt to the manor of Gymyng-ham, in our said county of Norfolk, parcel of the possessions of the said Duchy of Lancaster, and all and singular other her sequels, now begotten and hereafter to be begotten, and do by these presents for ever free and exonerate the same Margaret from the yoke of servitude and servile condition; so, that is to say, that neither we, nor our heirs nor successors, nor any other for us or in our name, any right or claim in the aforesaid Margaret Cawston, nor in her progenitors or sequels, now begotten or hereafter to be begotten, nor in their lands, tenements, goods or chattels, to whatsoever parts of the world they should go, should be able to or ought, in the future, to exact, claim or challenge, but from all action of right and claim thereof are for ever, by these presents, excluded, and we, by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors for ever, exonerate, acquit and release the same Margaret and all her sequels. WE GIVE ALSO, and of our more ample and special grace, and of certain knowledge and mere motion, by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do grant, release and confirm to the aforenamed Margaret Cawston, all and singular her messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, and also all and singular her goods, chattels, and debts [*debita*] whatsoever, as well moveable as immoveable, and as well real as personal, with all their appurtenances, of which she is now seized or possessed or which she purchased, obtained or acquired, and to which we have or in anywise might have the right or title of entry or seizure. SAVING nevertheless and excepting to us, our heirs and successors, as well the freehold and inheritance of us of all the customary lands and tenements of which she is seized and holds of us, by copies or by copy of roll or rolls of court or courts of any our manor, or any our manors, and

the services, customs, rents, and other casualties and profits for the same customary lands and tenements, or any of them or any parcel thereof, to be rendered, paid or done, as rents and services to us, as chief lady of the fee, to be rendered for any lands or tenements held freely of which she is seized. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the aforesaid messuages, lands, tenements, and other hereditaments aforesaid, by her purchased, had or obtained (except before excepted and saved, as is aforesaid) with all and singular their appurtenances, to the aforesaid Margaret Cawston, her heirs and assigns for ever. AND ALSO to have and enjoy all and singular her aforesaid goods, chattels and debts whatsoever, by her purchased, obtained or acquired, to the aforesaid Margaret Cawston, her executors, administrators and assigns for ever, without account or any other thing therefor to us, our heirs and successors, in whatsoever manner to be rendered, paid or done, by reason of any servitude or servile condition of the same or of any of them. Notwithstanding any law, statute, act of Parliament, custom or prescription, or any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever, before this time enacted, ordained, promulgated, made or provided, to the contrary thereof, or the not following of any writ or any writs of *ad quod damnum*, or any other inquisition, or any other inquisitions, thereupon not made or taken or had, or to be had. Albeit express mention, etc. IN WITNESS whereof etc. GIVEN etc., on the 28th day of November in the eighteenth year of our reign."

In all the Gimmingham manumissions only one case of a refusal on the part of a bondman is recorded. James Brannte, the holder of one tenement and three roods of land in the neighbouring village of Swafeld valued at 5s. "refused reasonable to compound and agre wth me the said S^r Henry Lee for his manumission . . . or for his said lands and tents WHEREUPON I the said Sr Henry Lee humbly besecheth that it will please her Matie to passe confirme (and) graunte unto my heires and assynes for ever" the property of the aforesaid James Brannte "accordinge to the forme mencioned in the aforesaid lres (letters) patents "of " June xxi xvij Eliz." This took place in the Queen's 19th year, and I have not come across any subsequent legal proceedings, but Brannte must have given in eventually for in 41 Elizabeth his manumission was carried through by Sir Henry Lee, the deed directed to Sir Robert Cecil, then Chancellor of the Duchy, bearing date Feb. 17th, and by it James Brannte, and his sons Robert, Bartholomew and Richard were all enfranchised.

The following table shows the Gimmingham manumissions during the reign of Elizabeth (with the exception of the three first, all are part of Sir Henry Lee's grant).

NAMES OF BONDMEN.	DATE AND SOURCE OF INFORMATION.
1. Thomas Calke of Paston, William his son, and Henry Calke of Bacton.	5 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{20}$.
2. William Packman of Mondesley.	6 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{20}$.
3. John Allyn of Snyderley alias Blakeney, Thomas and William his sons, and Johanna his daughter.	8 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{20}$.
4. William Payne of Paston, Thomas his son, and Elenor, Wenefride and Elizabeth his daughters.	17 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
5. Thomas Calke, the younger, of Hemesbye, and Anne his daughter.	18 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
6. Margaret Powle, wife of Jerome Cawston, of Southreppes.	18 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
7. Robert Gabyn of Woodalling, the older, Roger, Richard, William, Robert, Henry & Thomas, his sons, and Wenefride and Alice his daughters.	18 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
8. James Allen, of Southreppes.	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
9. Thomas Harman, of Norwich, "Sckyner."	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
10. John Payne, of Brynton, Robert & James his sons, and Margaret his daughter.	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
11. John Payne, of Paston.	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
12. John Harman, of Northelham.	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
13. William Collarde, of Saxthorpe.	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.

NAMES OF BONDMEN.	DATE AND SOURCE OF INFORMATION.
14. Robert Calke, of Small-borowe.	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
15. John Payne, of Gunton, John, his son and Elizabeth, his daughter.	19 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
16. Alice Drake, daughter of William Gryme, wife of Richard Drake, ²⁵ of Swafield, holder of lands & tenements in Bacton & Edingthorpe, value 40s.	20 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
17. Henry Harman, of Norwich, deceased, owner of a house in Sr. Lawrence's parish, Norwich, value £5.	20 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.
18. William Harman, late of Norwich, owner of one messuage in the parish of St. Peter, Conisford, value 20s.	ditto.
19. Alice Allen, daughter of Gregorie Allen, seized of three roods of land in Swafield.	ditto.
20. Clement Kinge, & William Kinge, sons of Thomas Kinge, of Knapton, seized of 30 acres in Swafield, value 20s.	ditto.
21. James Brannete, of Swafield, Robert Bartholomew & Richard his sons, seized of one tenement and 3 roods of land in Swafield, value 5s.	20 Eliz. his refusal to be enfranchised, D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102, etc: 41 Eliz. his manumission, D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{19}$ & Misc. Bk. 102.
22. Alice Pundez, of Trimmingham, widowe, late wife of John Pundez, and daughter of Adam Atheythe, late of Sidestrand, bondman.	20 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{19}{20}$.

²⁵. Richard Drake was seized of tenements and gardens in Thetford, value £6 13s. 4d.

NAMES OF BONDMEN.	DATE AND SOURCE OF INFORMATION.
23. Henry Kye or Collet, the elder, of Saxthorpe, Thomas & Henry the younger, his sons.	41 Eliz. D. of L. Misc. $\frac{13}{9}$. D. of L. Misc. Bk. 102.

Practically all the above surnames occur frequently in the Manor Rolls and Accounts of Gimingham—Allyn, Calke, Harman²⁶ being specially common. In the jury of bondmen for 21 Henry VIII., we find the names (*i.e.*) of John Calke, William Gryme, William Payne, Robt. Powle, John Pakeman, William Pakeman, John Aleyn de Happisburgh, William Payne, the younger, William Powle, Gregory Aleyns, John Aleyns, the elder, John Aleyn, the younger, and Robt. Harmer, and in the same roll, amongst the list of those paying 6d. as chevage are, John King, dwelling at Norwich, John (?) Gryme of Sheryngham, Warren Alleyn of Coltyshale, John Aleyn of London, Richard Collard of Saxthorp, Robt. Harman of Holles (?), John Alleyn of Hempstead, Robt. Alleyn of the same, John Herman of Sutton, John Aleyn of Shelton, and Robert Payne of Brinton.

Under such grievously hard conditions it was natural enough that bondmen were very unwilling to acknowledge their villeinage, and there are among the Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings several suits which show something of the methods and arguments employed by villeins to hide their servile condition and to prove that they were *free and frank* men.

In 17 Eliz.²⁷ the Attorney General of the Duchy took proceedings on the Queen's behalf against John and Robert Allen "of Lames" (Lammas) and Richard Allen of Colbie, in the County of Norfolk, "Brethren," all three being bondmen Regardant . . . to the manor of Gymingham, "and the said Richard Allen now dwelleth at Colbie aforesaid, and the said John and Robte. do dwell at Lames aforesaid out of the said manor of Gymingham . . . and . . . not only refuse to acknowledge and confesse there said Bondage to the Quenes Ma^{tie} and to return anyway to the said severall manors whereunto the(y) are severallie Regardaunt and to do such services unto the Quenes Ma^{tie} as by their bondage they are bounde to do but Also

26. In 4 Henry V. Richard Herman, son of John Herman of Esterton, bondman regardant to the Manor of Gimingham, obtained a licence to take Holy Orders in spite of his bondage. D. of L. Misc. Bk. xvii., pt. 3, fo. 67.

27. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 99. A. 11.

de denye to yeld the Quenes Ma^{tie} their landes or tenements or any profytte or Comoditie out of the same or ells to Answere onto the Quenes Ma^{tie} and of the said goodes Cattells whereby by their bondage might Apere to the utter dishinhereson of the Quenes M^{tie} " . . . unless the Duchy Court "finds some remedy," and it is prayed to summon the Allens before it to answer to the charges.

The enquiry²⁸ took place in the following year, and the first three interrogatories deal with the parentage and ancestry of Robert, John and Richard Allen, whilst the fourth and last question demands whether "your father and your grandfather or ells some of your ancestors have some tyme dwelled within the Mannor and soke of Gymingham." The depositions of the three brothers (described respectively as *husbandmen* [two] and *tanner*) taken at Westminster on Nov. 26th, 18 Eliz., testify that their father, grandfather and great grandfather were called Allen, and lived in Lammas, and that never to their knowledge had their ancestors ever dwelled within the manor of Gymingham.²⁹

Possibly these Allens proved their claim to freedom, for we do not find their names amongst the subsequent manumissions, though I suspect that they *were* descendants of a certain Warren Allen "of Coltyshale" (an adjoining village to Lammas), who paid 6d. chevage to the Manor of Gimingham for leave to live outside it in 21 Henry VIII.

There certainly *was* a bond family of Allen or Aleyn living within the Soke of Gimingham from very early times, as the Court Rolls prove, and two members of the family were enfranchised by Sir Henry Lee, viz., Jameſ Alleyn of Southreppes in 19 Eliz., and Alice, daughter of Gregorie Alleyn in the following year.

In 18 Eliz. a complaint³⁰ was lodged with Sir Ralph Sadler, Chancellor of the Duchy, by Sir Henry Lee, on the Queen's behalf, against Richard, John and James Gogill, and William Payne (besides others not of this manor), discovered to be concealed bondmen by one Thomas Heron.

The complaint against the Gogills is as follows:—

"That Richard Gogill of Norwich . . . John Gogill of Banningham (and) James Gogill of Wickmer . . . and all their ancestors tyme out of memorie of man have ben villens and niefes regardaunt" to

28. *D. of L. Depositions*, 18 Eliz., No. 44.

29. Reference to the early Parish Registers of Lammas show that there were many Allens in the place at that date. *Robert Allen* was buried there in 1581, and a John Allen was Churchwarden for a time, and was buried in 1611. *Parish Registers of Lammas and Little Hautbois*, edited by Walter Rye, Norwich, 1905.

30. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 101, L. 7.

the Manor of Gimingham . . . and "that the said Richard Gogill, John Gogill and James Gogill have departed from the said manor (and) have sought by all secrett waies and meanes to concelle and hide their said bondage. And notwithstandinge it doth plainlie apere by the Courte Rolles . . . that they tyme out of memorie of man have been bondemen and niefes regardaunt to the (Manor of Gimingham) yet they and everie of them have and doe Refuse to acknowledge and confesse their bondage to the Quene's Majest^{tie} And to do such services unto the Quene's Majest^{tie} as they ought and are bounde to do, to the utter disinherison of the Quene" etc:

"The answers of John and James Gogle to Sir Henry Lee" are found in another volume of the Pleadings³¹ and consist of a long and closely written statement denying the bill of complaint, and claiming that the evidence is insufficient to prove them "to be villernes in blood of olde as in verye deede they be not." They affirm that Thomas Gogle, grandfather of James Gogle, "one of the now defendants, hath lived in South Reppes for the space of LXXXIX years or thereabout and held that one Thomas Gogle dyed in South Reppes within the Soke of Gymingham . . . (and) was knowne to be a free and franke man without any clayme of villaynage or bondage." John the eldest son of the above named Thomas "had yssue Thomas and James Gogle on[e] of the now defendants." They claim that the family is "free and francke" because there has never been "any challenge of bondage" and they offer the evidence of having been "called divers and sondrye times before the Grand Jury" and the testimony of men of "LXXXXVJ or thereabout." They declare that they are copyholders, rendering dues to the Manor Court.

The Gogles probably substantiated their claim of being a free family, for we do not find any of the name in the subsequent charters of manumission. We know them to have been people of some importance. John Gogyll was one of the Jury of Freemen for the Manor in 1493, and in the Court Roll dated 1496 the Trunch Jury say that "John Gogyll of Trunch died seized of 60 acres of land, whereof 20 acres were bond heath land, 10 acres were bond field land and 30 acres were bond wood land and marsh land, in Trunch; and that Clement Gogyll is his son and next heir, and is of full age, who did not come." Therefore the land is seized etc. It is curious to find a free family holding bond land, and it shows that the tenure of bond land did not render the tenant a bondman, although the tenure of free land by a bondman *soiled* the free land. Thomas Gogull was on the Southreppes Inquest in 21 Henry VIII.,³² and is probably the Thomas Gogyll mentioned in the evidence. Clement

31. Vol. 104, L. 4b.

32. *D. of L. Court Rolls*, bundle 103, No. 1422.

Gogyll was a Chief pledge for Trunch in the same year. At the Heraldic Visitation of a few years later the family of *Gogill of Gimingham* finds a place, and bore arms—or, on a bend *sable* three crescents of the field.³³ Both Richard and John Gogill figure in the pedigree, and on the face of it, it seems very strange that an attempt could have been made by Sir Henry Lee to impute villeinage to a family of such position, and yet a reference to the list of bond services for 1580 shows that the Gogles were certainly tenants of much *bond land* even if they were not actually bondmen.

The complaint against William Payne of Paston forms part of the same bill as that against the Gogles, the accusation is, however, a somewhat different one. It is to the effect that the defendant William Payne owes his brother the sum of thirty pounds, the purchase money of "certen landes w^{ch} the said William Payne sold of the said John Payne's at the Earnest Request for the said John Payne," but the thirty pounds had never been paid "to the use of his said brother which Debt and Duties of Right belongeth unto the Quene's Ma^{tie}," John Payne being a bondman regardant to the Manor of Gimingham."³⁴ And althought the sayd William Payne hath ben often tymes required to paie to the Quene's Ma^{tie} the sayd some of 30 l. to her Ma^{tie} belonginge yet he hath hitherto Refused to paie the same," the Court is therefore prayed to take steps to summon William Payne to appear and answer to the accusation. This seems to be a case of an attempt to use the lord's legal right to claim debts in the bond tenant's name. On this occasion John Payne was evidently unsuccessful, for two years later he again brings up the suit in the Duchy Court. Unfortunately I have been unable to find the answers of the Paynes so that I do not know the result of the suit, but there was no doubt of the villeinage of the family of Payne, for William Payne was on the jury of bondmen for the manor in 21 Henry VIII.

Another concealed bondman regardant to Gimingham was Matthew Harman of Norwich.³⁵ He was discovered by the same Thomas Heron for Sir Henry Lee in 18 Eliz., who complains of his recent departure from the Manor and how he "hath sought by all secrett waies and meanes to concele and hide his said bondage . . . (and refused) to acknowledge and confesse his said bondage . . . (or) to do such services as he ought to do, to the utter disinherison

33. *The Visitation of Norfolk*, by William Harvey, Cooke, Raven and Richmond, 1563-1613, Harl. MSS. 1552, edited by Walter Rye for the Harleian Society.

34. William Payne had just been manumitted in 17 Eliz., the first Gimingham manumission of Sir H. Lee. John was manumitted 19 Eliz.

35. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 101, L. 8.

of the Queen" etc. Several Harmans received manumission from Sir Henry Lee, but there is no deed relating to this Matthew Harman.

On the same page as the above suit in Vol. 101 of the Duchy Pleadings are two more cases dealing with bond-tenants of Gimmingham. The first³⁶ complains that Cesseley Blofylde, widow, has remarried and bestowed her goods and chattels on her new husband Martin Bacon, concealing her bondage from the Queen's officers. The rest of the document refers to John Harman, who is accused of concealment of bondage, and whose answer is to be found on the following page. John Harman of North Elmham was enfranchised during the next year, and is no doubt the same person.³⁷

There remains one curious suit to be examined which also relates to bondage in the Manor of Gimmingham. It consists of a Bill of Complaint³⁸ against a certain William Goslinge, executor to Robert Allen, bondman, of Hempstead.³⁹ It shows the risk which was run by anyone administering a bondman's will even as late as 1580.

On the death of Robert Allen his goods and chattels "to the value of one hundredth pounds came to the handes and possession of one Willm Goslinge of Eccles . . . yeoman, who doth wrongfully Deteyne And wth houlde the same from the Quenes Ma^{tie} mindinge thereby to Defraude her Ma^{tie} of the same Contrarye to all righte equitie and good Conscience." William Goslinge's reply is found in another volume of the Duchy Pleadings⁴⁰ and is headed "The Answer of William Goslinge defendt to the . . . insufficient bill of complaint of S^r. Henrye Lee" . . . In it Goslinge complains of the untruth of the accusation Sir Henry Lee, "beinge a man of great worshippe and credit to threten, to vexe and troble this Defendt. . . . And therefore this Defendt. praieth to be dismissed out of this honorable Corte (without) any farther troble charges or expenses And yet nevtheless if this Defendt shulde be compelled by the order of this honorable Corte to make any further Answer unto the said . . . bill of Complaint" he affirms that "the said Robte Allen menconed in the said Bill beinge villein regardaunte to the mannor of Gymyngham now deceased was in the last tyme possessed of (divers) goods and Chattells to what value this defendt doth not remember, And afterwards About xxiiijth yeares have last past the said Robte Allen beinge endebted unto divers psons in sundrie sumes

36. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 101, L. 8A.

37. *D. of L. Misc.*, Bk. 102.

38. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 117, L. 3.

39. No doubt one of the Allens of Happisburgh mentioned in the Court Roll 21 Hen. VIII. Hempstead and Eccles both adjoin Happisburgh.

40. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 112, L. 13.

of money And also havinge given Dues and Sundries" . . . he died, leaving Goslinge his executor, who after his death attended the Court of the said mannor "in the fite and sixte yeares of the Raigne of the late King Phillippe and Queene Mary" at which one Edward Cordell, deputy steward, "ther granted unto this Defendt. to admyner occupie and enioye All the goodes and Chattells w^h late wer the said Robte Allens to be by hym eymployed for And toowardes the payment of the debtes of the said Robte Allen . . . [The] last will and testament in wrytenge [was] then showed in Corte" and "a Note or Copie of the Corte Rolls" can prove this. "By fforce whereof this def uppon some part of the said goodes . . . paid the Debtes and ligace of the said Robte. Allen accordingle." He denies that he detained any of the "hundredth pounds" to his own use, as "is very untruellie Alledged," and declares that he has explained clearly how Allen's property came to his hands and how he has disposed of it. He then reaffirms his honesty and prays to be dismissed.

From Goslinge's evidence it seems clear enough that the goods and chattels had been duly surrendered into the hands of the deputy steward on the death of the owner, and it seems very hard that the whole matter should be raked up by Sir Henry Lee twenty-three years later! Probably the proceedings originated through the absence of the Manor Court Rolls for the years which Goslinge mentions. About this time there appears to have been some discussion as to the whereabouts of the rolls, and the late deputy-steward Thomas Grene, gentleman, of Knapton, was summoned in 1583 to answer charges of hiding, detaining or destroying them, and of forcibly resisting the Queen's commissioner and certain of the tenants when they appeared to search his house. Amongst the rolls was a paper book compiled by Grene for Sir Henry Lee and containing a list of Gimmingham bondmen taken from the original Court Rolls.⁴¹ Although the late deputy-steward denied the charges it seems just possible that the disappearance of both the rolls and the book of bondmen had something to do with a sum of money which Grene owed to members of the family of Gryme. The Grymes were people of importance in the district but their name occurred in the incriminating book, and perhaps they forgave Grene his debt on condition that the book was never again to be produced against them to prove their bondage!⁴²

41. It seems possible that the [Gunton MS.] Manor Book, to which reference has been frequently made, may have been the very book in question.

42. *D. of L. Depositions*, 26 Eliz. No. 82 Regina v. Grene, and 27 Eliz. No. 68 Sir Henry Lee v. Grene.

I think the evidence which I have quoted must tend to refute the theory that Elizabethan bondage was merely a nominal obligation which was rarely, if ever, enforced. In the space of a few years we find documents dealing with nearly thirty bond families in one Norfolk manor, and certainly the condition of this manor can have been in no sense a unique one. Bondage as a system was dead enough in the 16th century, but individual bondmen were still quite common, as these records prove.

Elizabeth's last charters of manumission are dated 1599 and by them *personal* bondage was brought virtually to an end. Nevertheless bond *tenure* lingered on, and the *name of bondman* does not disappear from the Court Rolls of Gimingham. As late as 1650 we get particulars of arrears in the "sale of works," showing that the liability to perform bond services was at that time still acknowledged by lord and tenant alike. The position of the Gimingham tenants in this respect was not peculiar, for in the Cambridgeshire manor of Wilburton ploughings and boon works continued to be rendered in the reign of James I.⁴³ I think, however, that we may claim something unique in the fact that soccage tenure and agricultural services are reputed to have survived in Gimingham as late as the year 1789!

The 17th century Court Rolls are filled with references to bond land and bond tenants, of which the following are a few typical examples.

1613, 10 March.

Surrender by "Lawrence Lawes *bond tenant* of this mannor of all his Copie hold land [etc.], by the hands of Edmund Ashwell, in the presence of Richard Barker and Willm Hilsdon *all bond ten'* of this mannor."

1613, 20 Dec.

Surrender by Richard Bond, *bond tenant*, in the presence of William Call, gent, *bond tenant* and William Campling, *bond tenant*, of 2a. of land, *bond bruery* in Paston.

1613, 6 Jan.

Surrender by Thos. Colbye, by the hands of John Cutlacke, *bond tenant*, in the presence of Gregorie Colbye and Nicholas Bateman, likewise *bond tenants*, of "one acre parcell of twoo acres of land *bond bruerie* of the House of Crosdale lyinge in Northreppes."

Surrender by Robert Bartrum, by the hands of Robert Gryme, *bond tenant*, in the presence of Rich. Gryme and Rich. Bartrum, *bond tenants*, of 2 roods of *bond sealand* etc:

43. F. W. Maitland *History of a Cambridgeshire Manor*.

It is interesting to come across Margaret Causton again, the bond wife of Jerome Causton, who was manumitted in 18 Eliz. Although free in person she still holds bond land.

1614, 28 June. Surrender by John Slappe and Margarett Caus-ton, widow, of *bond land*.

1614, 2 Aug. Surrender by Nicholas Beter, by the hands of John Taylor, *bond tenant*, in the presence of Anthonie Allen and Nicholas Wither, *bond tenants*, of "one acre of Bruerie in Paston."

The Sidestrand jury in April, 1614, finds that "Willm. plaforð surrendered al his landes the XVth. daye of Sept., 1613 into the hands of Jeffery Monye *bond tenant* to this maner in the p^rsence of Tho. Risse sen and Thomas Risse the younger as herein this note contayne." While the Paston jury in September of that year finds that "Nicholas Beter of Paston Beckergate haue sowld three acres of land, *bond feild*, in Paston to John Taylor and his heires."

1631, 13 Oct. Surrender by Adam Harmer of "*bond land*, marish, in Swayfeild."

1632. A list of lands and tenements gives particulars of land, "nat" (native), "Soliat" (selionated), "feild," "marist" [*sic* = marsh], "bruer" (bruery), and "lancett" (lancetti).

The following surrender contains a curious gift to the parish-ioners of Mundesley.

1632, 21 Aug. The jury finds "that Robert Rumpe . . . sur-rendered by the handes of Thomas Wootes *bond tenant*, in the psencs of Thomas Bradfield and Robert Alinge likewise *bond tenants* on cottage in length xij foote in bredth viij foote or there about to the use of Vssley [*sic*] Woodhouse duringe her lyfe and after her decese to the use the Inhabitanties of Mundesley And to remayne to the Towne for ever." [The last line is crossed out, but I think it is of sufficient interest to be printed].

1632, 21 Aug. The Sidestrand jury find that "Jhoane God-freyes dyed since easter Geenerall laste being *bond tenant* of this man^r and the lands w^{ch} she helde ma^rst: Clarke is in possession and hath taken it upe."

Even the important people of the Soke often held their lands by bond tenure. For instance on 15 July, 1634, the South Repps jury record the death of "Raphe Harstong [*sic*] gent, *bond Tent* of this mannor."

In the same year Richard Cutlacke "thelder" of North Repps

surrenders⁴⁴ "all that messuage or tenement called Annydoes [in North Repps] in a certeine streete there called Crosdale Street wth the lands and homestalls⁴⁵ of the said messuage or tent adioyning or apperteyning conteyning 2a. 1r. of *land bond* lyeinge betwene the land of Thomas Rugge esquire of the north pte and the Comon waye leadinge to the Church of Northrepps aforesaid of the south pte and abbutteth upon the Comon path called Cotesshall styte towards the east Also ffoure acres and one roode of land soyle [sic, for soiled?] feild late [of] Willm Barker abutting on land nup magistri Bedingfeild nowe Willm Payne towards the west, to the behouffe and use of Willm Copeman of Paston, yeoman, [unless £35 be paid by Rich: Cutlacke in or upon 26 Dec. 1635] in the mansion house where Mr. Copeman now dwelleth at Paston."

In conclusion it may be noted that the Gimingham surrenders for 1649 include:—

16 Aug. Richard Gryme, of Trymingham, *bond tenant*, and Mary his wife to Thos. Crispe.

17 Aug. Rich^d. Woorts, of Trunch, and Edward Bradfeild, both occur as *bond tenants*.

24 Sept. Nicholas Beter, late *bond tenant*, and Anna his wife to Robt. Rye and his heirs, "all those lands [etc.] in Paston and Monslie."

In the following year, 1650, Edward Bradfeild was reeve, and his accounts include £7 6s. 4½d., for the sale of works, a charge which it is noted further on has not been paid for the past sixteen years.

"for the sale of workes at vij*li*. vjs. iiij*sh*. qr and unpaid by xvj yere last past this yere ended beside other yeres going before
cxvij*li*. js. viij*sh*."

If the tenants could with impunity run up an account against themselves like this without serious interference from the authorities we may well conclude that the obligations of bond tenure had practically ceased to be enforced in 1650. It seems highly improbable that the Lord Mayor and citizens of London in Cromwellian days would have attempted to exact the obsolete privileges of feudalism in their distant Norfolk manor, and doubtless after their purchase of the estate the last vestiges of villeinage were allowed practically to die out.

44. I have printed the whole text of this surrender for the sake of the place-names.

45. *Homestall* occurs in the Rich. III. Rental. I take it to mean *homestead*.

Soccage services indeed were reputed to have survived until 1784 when G. A. Walpoole wrote "At Grimmingham [sic] is still kept up the ancient tenure of socage, when the copyhold tenant, instead of paying his money, works several days for the lord of the manor."⁴⁶ I do not know upon what authority the writer based this statement, it may possibly be only a quotation from Spelman's *Icenia*, and since I have no documentary evidence as to this survival I prefer to conclude my survey of bondage and agricultural services with the year 1650.

46. *The New and Complete Traveller* (1784), p. 405.

CHAPTER V.

THE ENCLOSURE AND DECAY OF THE DEMESNE AND THE RELAXATION OF MANORIAL AUTHORITY.

Gimingham Hall in the 16th century was no longer even an occasional residence of the lord. As time went on every portion of the demesne had been leased to tenants, and the manor house itself must have gradually degenerated into nothing more than a farm-house. The first actual dismemberment of the demesne took place in the reign of Edward VI. and during the early days of the tenancy of Peter Rede, when the park was broken up into enclosures and fenced by him with quickset hedges "growne with grett old thornez." They knew how to hedge and ditch in those days, and I am confident that the enormous thorn fences which still enclose the meadows below Gimingham Hall are the direct descendants of his quicksets.

The division of the park into arable and pasture enclosures followed probably as the result of a commission in 3 Edward VI. to enquire into the condition of the manor, which reported "ther is a parke ther not imparked nor ffenced accordinge to the consente of the ffermors" (Sir Thomas and Sir James Boleyn), and the repair of it would cost £3. The wood of 300 roods is also unfenced, and of the warren they say that "the ffermors paye three pounds sex shillinges eight pence by yere for it" but it is not "kept nor mainteyned with Conyes" as a warren ought to be, "to the hynderance of the Kyng and his ffermor thereof" and it will cost more than £3 to store the warren again with Conyes!

Since the park was fast becoming a park no longer it was no doubt thought the wisest and most practical plan to break it up into enclosures—in fact to turn it into the very fields which are there at the present day.

In 1553 a commission was formed to enquire into

the condition of the park, manor and woods, and since it describes the state of affairs very graphically I think it is of sufficient interest to print in full. Already the park had been transformed by Rede into eight closes or enclosed fields, valued at 3s. per acre for meadow, 2s. for pasture and 1s. 4d. for arable land. The commissioners reckon that the park can support 200 head of deer, besides a bull and milch cows, and 2 geldings, but they admit that "there shall Lakke brusying [feed] in wynter, the same brose is so sore taken of."¹

The manor house itself was falling rapidly into decay, the Court Hall, Knights' Hall, Steward's Chamber, Gate-house, and all the outdoor buildings being in urgent need of repair, to say nothing of the park paling and fences on the estate, which the commissioners think it would take three years to put into good order.

The document ends with a summary of the receipts of the manor, which are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rent of assise	90	6	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
New Rent	1	7	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sale of works	7	6	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Farm of the herbage	5	5	0
Farm of the mill	5	0	0
Farm of corn		2	10
Farm of the demesne land ...	30	0	0
Farm of the Cony warren ...	3	11	8

"besydes the casualties which being rated coibz a^{is} will amounte by the yere at the leste to fortie markes."

²"The sertyfycat of John Plumpsted Esquyer and John Stubbe Gent: sertyfyed before Sir John Gates, knyght, chancellor to the King his Majestie of his Duchie of Lancastre towching the contentes of the comyssyon hereunto annexed to the same John & John directed & delyvered in to the same court the XVth of Trynytie in the vijth. yere of his graces most noble Reygne.

The same John Plumpsted & John Stubbe sertyfye

1. Cf. the use at Oxford of the word *brosure* for making a clean sweep of all the food on the table.

2. *D. of L. Depositions*, Vol. 61, R. 10., A, B, C and D.

that thei, be vertue of the same commysseyon, repared to his graces manor of Gymmyngham the xxijth day of May next ensuyng the date of the same commysseyon & vewed the same parke & for the better executing & servyng of the King his Majestie in that behalf then charged upon their othez serten tennents whose names foloweth to serche owght & to make owght dwe [due] Inquysyon of the articlles conteyned in the same commysseyon gevyng them day to appere before us the same commysseyoners the fyfte of June then next ensuyng & in the meane tye [time] to make dwe Inquissicon therein.

Fraunces Reymez	} Jur'	Robert Payne.	} Jur'
Esquier.		William Browning.	
Roger Bateman.		Robert Playford.	
Thomas Flyght.		Thomas Bolt.	
John Blofeld.		Thomas Marche.	
John Hubbart.		William Playford.	
John Calk.		Robert Beath [? Beter]	
Thomas Drake.		Richard Gooz.	
Thomas Leche.		Thomas Howse.	
John Beter.		Richard Wurtez.	
John Taylor.		William Trusbutt.	
John Gogyll.		John Drake.	
Jerome Causton.			

Park, 124 a. 2¹/₂ Att which fyfte day of June after our assembling there r. pasture, with deliberat advyse & weying the same acording to our wood, meadow, and arable. dutyez we say that the parke of Gymmyngham especyfyed in the same commysseyon conteyneth by measure vj^{xx}. acrez & iij^{or} acrez, one half acre & one half roode after xxj foote to the perche pole or roode, whereof there is in pasture ground & partly grown with Woode lxxij^{te3} acrez & three roodes of medowe, xlj acres & half & half a roode; & of arable ground latly converted to tyllège from woode ground, & ground growne with grett old thornez, stubbed of late by Peter Reede Esquier now fermor there xix acres & j rode.

At 2s. an acre for pasture, 3s. for meadow, and 1s. 4d. for arable. And that every acre of pasture so measured att xxj foote the perche is yerly worth to be letten ijs., every acre of medowe after the same measure, is yerly worth iijs., and every acre of arable, newly converted to tillage is after the same measure yerly worth xvjd.

3. One x may have been deleted, in which case the number is 63 instead of 73.

The park divid-
ed up into 8
enclosures.

And that the same parke is severed & devyded nowe of late by the said Peter Rede in to viij closurez & partez with hegges & dechez & pales, that is to say in to one close lying on the south syde of the parke next to the manor howse ontylled, severed with an hegge, & contains iij acres di. The second lyth alnext the same on the south syde thereof converted in to tyllage of late by the same Peter & conteyneth together with one acre & di of woode in the same xx acrez iij roodes. The third clos lyth on the North of the same arable ground indeched with quykke sett of new by the said Peter, & conteyneth xvj acrez and thereof is in meadow xij acrez & the other iiij acrez pasture & bruerie. The iiijth. lyth att the west end of the same parke toward the North & conteyneth after the first measure of xxj fote to the perche lxviij acrez iij roodez & di—whereof in medowe xx acres & the resedewe of parsture ground. The fyfte lyth on the North syde of the said parke & contains xj acrez whereof of medowe vj acrez & the resdewe pasture ground and woode. The sixte cloz lyth att the est ende of the same last cloz & contains iij acrez & di & di roode of meadow. The seventh lyth more est to the same severed with a dyche of quykke sett by the same Peter & containing di acre & di rode of pasture & woode ground. The viijth. cloz lyth neere to the said manor howse paled of late by the said Peter for an hegge yard & contains one rode of meadow.

No part of the
park eared be-
fore Rede's
tenancy.

The park can
support 200
deer: — milch
cows: 1 bull:
2 geldings, but
there is but poor
feed in winter.
67 deer destroy-
ed 24 years
previously.

And we sertyfy that there waz no parte eared of the same parke before the entry of the same Peter Rede.

Also we esteme that the same parke will beere & kepe too hundred deere [tear] milch neate one bulle & ij geldynges butt there shall lakke brusying in Wynter the same brose is so sore taken of.

Furder we fynde be good profez that there were in the same parke upon a viewe taken there aboutt xxiiij yerez last past delyvered to one Thomas Breten Esquyer late keper there at the assignment of the ryght honorable Sir Thomas Boleyn Knyght, Erle of Wylshire deceased lxvij deere & destroyed in the same Bretens tyme by whome we knowe nott.

Destruction of
woods.

And that there is destructon in the woodez lately growying upon the same ground in the parke stubbed a new by the said Peter xix acrez & one roode every acre

estemed att xxs. & other destrucconz of Okez esshes & old thornes in the same parke done by the same Peter to the value of fyve pondez butt by what warrant they know nott.

South wood.

Also we fynde that within the same parke there is no woode mete to be sold butt there is a grett woode called the south woode belongyng to our said sovereyn lorde his majestie whereof the Inclosure is yearly to be kept & maynteyned off the dychynges & hollynges⁴ of the said fermor his charges & the herbage thereof taken by the same fermor & conteyneth by estimaton vj^{xx} acrez planted & growen with okez some of grett age & other of meane growth whiche grett woode hath bene from tyme to tyme in the remembraunce of the same Jurory for the most parte sold to the tennentes there acordyng to their necessitie for the maintennance of the reparaconz of their tenementes within the vij townez within the same sokon of the kyng his manor of Gymmyngham yearly there so sold by the surveyor of the same or elles for want of tymber the same tennentes tenementes were leake to be in moch ruyne & decay.

Wood sold to the tenants for the reparation of their tenements.

And furder wee say that att this present & yerly over & besidez the grett tymber that may be sold there, there may be sold to the King his majestie's use by takyng & wedyng owght the wrampey & undergrowth tymber & the grett tymber shuld be the better xls. be yeare.

Also we sertyfy that the dychez of the same woode called Soughtwoode arn for want of good dychyng & hollyng moche decayed so that onley the same ben newly repared shortely, the spryng of the same woode shalbe destroyed and also to have the same well preserved, there may be putt there be the fermor nor non other anye neate cattell or other cattell that shuld hurte the same spryng all which charges & reparaconz of the same dychez, holly [wholly] belongeth to the same fermor.

And that there is felled of late within the same greatt woode within thez iij yearez last past v^{xx} & xvij greatt okes to the value of every one [of] them as thei be usually sold vs. whiche amounteth to in the hole some

4. A *deek* and a *holl* are still the usual Norfolk terms for a hedge and a ditch.

in money xxix*li.* vs. & thereof is paid by the said fermor to the Kyng his use vj*li.* vs. butt by whatt warrant the same were felled by the same Peter wee knowe nott and there also hath ben felled there in the same woode within the same three yeez by the same Peter ix^{xx}. & iiij yong Okez estemed att ix*li.* by whatt warrant thei knowe nott also that there were of late overthrowen with the wynd in the same grett woode xxviij okez every oke valued att ijs. viij*d.* amountyng in the hole to iiij*li.* xiijs. viij*d.* and that the same fermor by the space of xv or xvj dayez in May laste paste dedde pasture in the same greatt Woode fyfte heade of Neate cattell to the grett destruccon of the spryng of the same wood.

Also there is a parcell of grond adjoynyng nere to the manor house called the hesell [haysel] yard wherein the same Peter hath felled lately on[e] grett oke worth iij of the best okes the Kyng hath there estemed att xvs. & on[e] grett esshe & hath made wast of other woode growyng there to the value of xs.

And as to the vewe of the howsez there is one grett hall upon the manor called the Co't hall in grett decay for want of coveryng with rede & reparacons of tymber worke on the sparrez to the value of xiiij*li.* vjs. viij*d.* butt whether the same reparacons arn to be born att the Kynges charges or the fermors we knowe nott.

And that there is a grett house of lenght called the Knyghtes house & hall whiche was att the levyng of Sir Jamez Boleyn Knyght late fermor there about iij yerez past in decay of reparacons for lakke of thakkyng wallyng & other necessarie reparacons of chimneys, to be done upon the same to the value of v*li.* & sinz that tyme decayed by the fermor now to the estimat of v*li.*

Also the howse called the Stewardes chamber & gate house is decayed for lekke of redyng & rovyng & stayrez makyng att the same Sir Jamez Boleyn levyng of to the value of xs. and sinz that tyme in this fermorz tyme to the value of xvjs. viij*d.*

And the stablez and barnez for hey in wer [sic for "were in"] decay att the levyng of the same Sir Jamez Boleyn for lakke of covering & wallyng to the value of xxs. and at the present by the fermor now att xs.

And that the corn barne is in ruine & decay for lakke of coveryng with rede to the estimate of iiij*li.*

Decay of
buildings.

The Court Hall.

The Knights'
Hall.

The Steward's
Chamber and
Gate House.

The stables and
hay barns.

The corn barn.

The backhouse.

The farmer's
lodging.

Also the house called the backhouse & howsez hangyng upon the same called the fermoez loggyng arn in ruynes & decay for lakke of reparacon of redyng and amendyng of one chimney with brykke to the value of *iiij*l. *xiijs*. *iiij*d.

Cart house and
pig-styes.

And that the cart house & swyne cotes arn in decay for lakke of redyng and rovyng to the value of *xs*.

Park paling.

And that there is *xxj* roddez of palyng decayed in the parke in this fermorze tyme valued att *xxjs*.

Hedges, etc.

And as to the estate of the woodez heggerowez dekes closurez and fensez belonging to the same ferme other thene before arn spoken of, we fynde one Inclose newly made by the same Peter lying agaynst the chirche⁵ to be well deched and sett with quykke sett in sufficient reparacon and one close also newly made by the same Peter of the south parte of the same manor to be in sufficient reparacon of dechyng quykke sett and hegging as also one other inclosure closed by the same Peter att the west ende of the same to be in leke good reparacon, one inclosure newly made by the same Peter called the est medow lying on the south parte of the mille there to be in leke good reparacon and lekewyse one other newe cloz, newly made by the same Peter lying more est is in three partez well deked quykke sett and hegged butt the est parte being the *iiij*th. parte is nott sufficiently deked nor hegged. Finally we fynd one[e] other new cloz lying next the same last cloz to be well fensed.

3 years to repair
the fences with
hedge-bote, etc.

Also the same Jurie doth sertyfye that the same new inclosurez made by the same Peter will nott be sufficiently, with fensyng stuffe and hegge-bote with the thornz and fensyng stuffe growyng upon the kyng majestie his demeanez there, be maintained and repared by the space of three yereaz.

By us

JOHN PLUMPSTED.
JOHN STUBBE.

We read again and again during the 16th century of the ruinous condition of the manor house and demesne.

5. I think this must refer to "Lord's Meadow" lying to the north of the Church.

In 3 Edward VI., Thomas Townesend and John Spencer, gent, are commissioned to repair to Gimingham and there to examine Sir Thomas and Sir James Boleyn, knights, the late farmers, whose lease, granted in 20 Henry VIII., for twenty-one years, was then just at an end, in order to find out the "estate" of the manor, and to ascertain if the "said fermors have suffyciently repayred sustayned and maytayned the sd ferme houses" [etc.], and "Yf not, then to enqyre in whose default the same hath byn decayed And what the coste and charges thereof wyll amounte unto to have the same suffyciently repayred agayne," (dated the "xxiiijth day of October the thyrde yere of our Reign.") The commissioners duly repaired to Gimingham on 25 Nov., "calling before [them] Thomas Gryme, assign to Sir Thomas Boleyn and Sir James Boleyn," and viewed all the houses, granges, etc., "and have proved and sene in what Ruyn and decay there are."

Of the buildings they report "ther is a house ther [called] the knyght hall which is in [a manner] fallen Downe and the same house beside tymber will not be repayred again under the sume of ffourty pounds." The other houses are out of repair too, and "ther is a Dovehouse ther which is decayed in the default of the ffermors And also the dowes despoyled" and it would take £6 to restore it and its occupants.

Things got worse and worse as time went on and in 21 Elizabeth, Miles Corbet and others are directed to enquire into the cost of repairing the Great Hall, out-buildings and park. The commissioners report that⁶ "there is a barne which is utterlie Decaied containinge in Lengthe three scoore two foote and in Breadth Twenty eight foote. The said Barne hath been upholden . . . these fytten or sixteen years, and in the beginninge of this month of April it fell down. To rebuild the same Barne it will take by estimacion Threskore Tonne of tymber which will hardlie suffice. The carpenters worke will coste xx*d*. the foote [etc.] The pynninge of the said Barne two foote above the ground will take eight chaldrons of Lyme at five shillings the chaldron The workmen and the mason will koste x*lb*. [etc.].

The Knight
Hall.

Dovehouse.

Repair of the
barn.

The slaughter
house.

Ther is a howse called the Slawght^{er} Howse w^{ch} is greatlie Decaied and needes not to be reedified The valewe thereof beinge pulled dow is for no purpose but the fire.

The prison, now
the Hawks
mews.

There is a howse called the prison now used for the Hawkes Mewes and now a Storehowse which is very owld and in greate decaie and may conveniently be spared.

Hereafter followeth the estimate of the charge of the repacion of the greate hall beinge no parcell of fishers Lease.

The Great Hall
(66 ft. by 45 ft.)

Ther is a greate hall containinge in Length LXVJ foote And in Breadth XLV which is Decaied in y^e roof and neade the Carpenters worke.

The Roof Covered with Reade. And the Coate of thyme And much blowne out that it must be new covered which will coste by estimacon on Thousand Reade at xxvj^d. the hundredth. ["Lathes, Nayles, and Bynding" also required.]

The park paling

Ther is an owld pke [park] pte. [part] paled and part dighed And hedged whereof the liiij Rodd on the North thereof reasonably well paled Next to it towards the west the iiijcc Rodd hedged uppon the Banke wher the gate did stande.

More in divers places Two hundredth thirty fyve Rodd Dicheed And hedged which was owldlie paled, more on the Sowth part lxxv Rodd part hedged and part with owld pale, Mor Sowth adjoining to the Manno^r. howse fourscore and ten Rodd well paled in good repacon."

The same story of decay is told a few years later, in 2 James I.

⁷The Inquisition or Survey or Waste and decayes of houses and buildings situated upon the Scyte of the manor of Gymyngham' in Gymyngham' in the countie of Norfolk taken the said Jan. 18th, 11th Jas. I. "before Edward Hobard Esquire Robt. Bulleyn gent. and Raphe Playsted gent. his majy comissioners" etc. by fabour of his highness Commission under his seale "bearinge date the XXXth day of November last past by the oath of:—

Thomas Baxter of Cromer gent.
 Willm Doughty of Banyngha' gent.
 Willm Gogle of the same.
 Robt. Reymes of Roughton gent.
 Rowland Hogan of the same.
 John Spillman of Cromer.
 Robt. Smythe of the same.
 John Cooper of the same.
 Henry Playford of Northreppes.
 Robt Byrd of Northreppes.
 Nicholas Smyth of the same.
 Richard Ellys of Sydestrond.
 Jeffrie Monie of the same.
 Giles Gryxe of the same.
 Thomas Worte of Thorp market.
 Christopher Tylles of Skeyton.
 James Allyn of Tuttington.

Extent of the
demesne.

Who say upon their oath that the Scyte of the
 mannor of Gymyngham' aforesaid and grange parcell of
 the said mannor together with the dovehouse yard on the
 Est parte of the said grange lye and extend by the
 grownde called the dayerye [dairy] grownde sometimes
 parcell of the parke there of the part of the North, and
 the close called the hall close otherwyse church close
 in part towards the Est and South, the grownde called
 the heasell [haysell] yard of the part of the South, the
 close or ground called the Pompe yard of the part of
 the West and North [is] to [be] divided with pale,
 wall and dytche. And that the bound betweene the
 Scyte of the said mannor and grange by the house some-
 times called the knight hall including the same hall
 to be parcell of the said grange and by the gate house
 their [sic] including the same to be parcell of the said
 Scyte of the manor, and they further say upon their
 oath that the hall called the Court hall situate upon
 the said Scyte is much in decay, that is to say the roof
 thereof for want of sufficient thacking or reedinge much
 bared and uncowered and manie of the sparres thereof
 perished to the damage or charge in newtymberinge and
 reading thereof sufficiently of syx score powndes, yet
 say that to set and put the said rooffe with strawe in
 sufficient and in former reparatiōe to become habitable
 the damage or charge will be xx*l*. xs. wth reed . . .

The Knight
Hall.

The Court
Hall.

All which decay and damage is happened within this yeare and half duringe the occupation of . . . Anthony Deeth Esquire deceased -- Thomas Doodes gent Claymeing under the said executing [?] as the said Doode affirmeth. Also say uppon their oath that the house situated at the South end of the said hall is for want of tylinge in decay to the charge of Tenne Shillinge. Also that one howse sometyme called the knyghte hall now used and made a barne situated uppon the aforesaid grange is in decay for want of thacking to the Charge Tenne Shillinge."

The Knight
Hall now a
barn.

Ditto . . "the Cart howse" . . . "ffoarty" shillings to repair.

„ "barne situate uppon the south syde syx shillinge eightpence."

„ "the stables situate attthe Est and the haybarne therein" 4os.

"All which decaies last mentioned happened during the occupation and amongst the default of the aforesaid Thomas Doodes gent. Also say upon their oath that one howse sometime the farme howse and situated onn the north syde of the said grange contynynge forty eight foote and in 23 roods twenty seaven foote is" [etc.] "wasted and decayed to the damage and charge of fifty ponde" [which decay happened during the occupation of] "Anthony Deeth Esq. and by his default hath beene supposed to be waste. And that the lower of the dove-house there is in decay for want of tymber and bord to support the roof thereof and to cover the same to the charge of Twenty Shillinge" [during Thos. Doode's occupation "And that the Stayer case of the Gallery over the Gate house is in decay in the tymber and for want of covering with tyle" to the cost of 2os. during Doode's occupation.]

[Signed by the above.]

[The commissioners are to enquire into and identify the land etc.: "and gave the said survaye to be made . . . by the jurie aforesaid."]

Two years later, in 13 James I., the jury give their verdict, Sir Thomas Henrie, Sir Augustine Palgrave, knights, and Thomas Corbet and Thomas Rugg esquires being nominated commissioners. The bone of contention

is, who is liable for the repairing of the decayed buildings, the former tenants, Anthony Death, and Thomas Doods, or the present farmer George Gryme?⁸ It is clear that the decays occurred during the tenancy of Death and Doods, but Gryme has repaired them at an outlay of £13 8s. 4d., which he claims to have refunded to him by Anthony Death's son-in-law, Ralph Blennerhasset, husband of Anne, his daughter and executrix. Blennerhasset claims on the other hand that the property was in good repair when it was handed over to Thomas Doodes. "He informed the Cte. [Court] that he ought not to paie as the negligence was Doodes."—Albeit he paid the same "and therefore requires restitution of the money." Doodes is therefore to be called and examined.

The jury finally give a verdict "that the east side of the hall of Gimingham' pcell of the Duchy [etc.] was repaired at the coste of olde Mris [mistress] Death and Ann her daughter now wife of Mr. Ralphe Blenhaisset esq^r, and executrix of the last will and Testament of Anthony Death esq^r., about the feast of St. Michael Tharchangell last past was two years, and that there were some small hooles in the thacke of the west side of the said hall. ITEM we find and agree that upon the feast daie of All St^s last past was a twelvemonth, A great pte of the thacke of the west side of Gimingham' hall aforesd by meanes of A great and extraordinarie tempest then hapning was blowen of, and that the thacke at the top of the roof was reived and blowen of in many places, and that the sd decaied west side of the sd hall by reason of the sd tempest hapned since the assignment from Agnes [sic] the now wife of the sd Mr. Blenhaisset unto the sd. Thos Doodes." They further find that George Gryme had repaired the same "in somer time next following" and that Doodes had made an agreement with Agnes [sic] Blennerhasset "to reaire all and singular the houses, edifices and buildings in and about the sd. manor of Gimingham." The verdict of the jury therefore seems to have left the case in much the same position as before. However, what chiefly concerns us is that Gimingham hall was fast falling about the ears of its various tenants!

A ruinous mansion with all its appurtenances—

prison, knights' hall and the rest—was of no particular use to the 16th tenants, and so by degrees it was changed into the substantial farm house which still exists. No doubt it underwent a drastic remodelling about the middle of the 17th century, when probably most of the old buildings were pulled down, and the present house, bearing the date of 1662, was erected out of the débris.

The buildings were not the only part of the manor to fall into decay, the great wood of Southwood came in for its share of "spoiling" now that the manorial jurisdiction was less vigorous in enforcing obedience to its internal regulations.

During Anthony Death's tenancy in 8 James I., a good deal of trouble arose through the inhabitants of Gimingham using the wood freely for feeding their beasts, and destroying its hedges and fences. Sir Wymond Carey had a lease of the Duchy woods of Gimingham, Trunch and Tunstead from the Crown, and from Anthony Death, and was therefore to a certain degree responsible for the damage. The whole story is told at length in the D. of L. Special Commission, No. 873, which was formed on Sir Wymond Carey's behalf to discover the extent of the depredations upon Southwood. Sir Edward Blennerhasset, Adam Scamler and others were the commissioners, and the evidence was taken at North Walsham on 11 June, 8 James I.

Thomas Brigge of Bradfeld, "gent, aged lviii yeares," is the first deponent and "sayth that the comon Reporte is at Trunch . . . that Willm Bates of Trunch, yeoman, hath Divers tymes sithence the first day of Aprill . . . throwne downe some xth of the ditches and hedges of his Ma^{ties} woods there called Southwoods . . . whereby the springs of the woods have been much hurte . . . and the neate cattell of the sayd William Bates and divers other feedinge amongst the springs in the Southwoods. [He] hath [also] sene the servants of Robt Cubytt of Bradfeld, yeoman, drive the horses [into Southwood] and suffer them to feede as well in common tyme as in wynter time."

Moreover, much timber had been sold out of Northwood on his majesty's behalf by one Mr. Glover which ought to have been removed by 1 November, but this has not been done, and further if it is done now it will be very injurious to the springs of the wood. The whole

transaction of "the fellīng and caryinge of the Tymber and wood so sowld for his Ma^{tie}. . . . was very hurtful to the sayd S^r. Wymond Carey his Ma^{tie} farmer of the Southwood in Respect of the underwoods of the same."

Willm Browninge, of Trunch, yeoman, aged 40 years, and George Gryme of Systroun, gent, aged 38 years, follow with somewhat similar evidence, the latter stating that "he did divers tymes see on or two neat cattle in . . . Northwood, and that he did once see about tenn neat Beasts in the sayd wood feedinge wh were sayd to be the beasts of Walter Jewler of Gimingham. And the Comon Report then ther was that in the somer tymes A.D. 1609 manie the inhabitants here . . . did many tymes suffer ther cattell to feed in Southwood to the great hurt of the springs of wood ther" [etc.]. Other witnesses were John Howes of Trunch, yeoman, aged 64, and Richard fflyght of Southreppes, aged 40, the latter appointed by the woodreve of Sir Wymond Carey to look after his interests, and who has "seen the afore-sayd Willm Bates repayre the fences towards the corne feilde in the tenure of Anthony Death Esq^{re}., And this deponent did in May last impound the sayd Bates his Cattell takinge them doinge hurte in the sayd woode . . . and that the sayd Bates his Cattell are not often out of the sayd woode but when they are at worke or carryed home to the sayd Bates his house." And so on and so forth, all the evidence proving that the inhabitants of Gimingham had got into the habit of making themselves quite at home in the preserves of their royal and absentee landlord!

Some years later when George Gryme was lessee of Gimingham hall he manages to get himself into trouble for selling a number of "timber trees" from Southwood without licence. The jury at the Easter Court 1633 finde that he sold an unknown number to the deputy of Sir John Hobart, knight, "a greate number" to Edward Rye, clarke, "one grove of timber called Caster" to John Starr for which he is reported to have paid £200, to Thomas Worts five trees for 5 marks, to Richard Worts twelve or fourteen trees for £10, to Robert Browninge four trees for 40s., to Thomas Juler ten trees for £5, to Robert Gryme three trees for 36s. 8d., [etc.].

In the following year, 1634, Mr. Robert Boleyn, the steward, instructs the jury to get further particulars

of this unauthorised sale, and on 8 April they give a verdict showing that six years previously "there were div'se [diverse] tymber trees growing in Southwood and in the parke wthin the bounds of the mannor of Gymyng-ham' lancastr sold by George Gryme sen' gent," and then follows a repetition of the list of purchasers given in the previous year, but nothing is said as to what amercement should be meted out to Gryme for his pil-laging of the woods.

We find another Gryme, Robert, in somewhat similar trouble in 19 Charles I., when a case was brought against him by the Citizens of London (then lessees of the manor) on the relation of Edward Ditchfield, for allowing certain trees to have been removed from Southwood in spite of an injunction to the contrary. In the course of the interrogatory one part of Southwood is called "frers or fryers wood," [friar's wood]. Robert Gryme gent. is called upon to give evidence on his own behalf on 31 Nov. 1643. He says that he remembers being served with a writ in Norwich, and he then returned to "his owne dwellinge house of Gymyngham after two or three days . . . but knowes not of any tymber trees carryed away." He did not tell his tenants of the writ nor that he could not carry timber away, for he was not bound to tell them. Thomas Welles, of Southrepps, carpenter, and William Purgall, of the same, shoemaker, did "by his appointment shrubbe some wood in Southwood and that John Hixx, Adam Streeke, and the said Purgall [and] Thomas Catton, laborers," were employed for making the wood into "faggotts," but as for "cutting or felling of tymber and barking them they were not imployed." Nor have his agents sold any timber to Edward Corbet, clarke, nor did they "by his appoyment carry any such woods unto the said Mr. Corbet's house in Northrepps." However, Gryme ends by allowing that some years before he *did* sell six score young oaks with the "shrubbinge" of others for £20 (of which he has received £10) to Humfrey Clark and Edmond Thompson, so it looks as if he had been playing the family game again all right!

Along with the complaints of the tenants trespassing in the woods we get other suits to restrain them from poaching in the warren.

Peter Rede was, amongst other things, "farmer of

hares, conyes, ffesants and partrycs in Gemyngham, Northreps, and the hoelk [*sic* for whole] Suckyn of Gemyngham" and in 6 Edward VI., we find him prosecuting Roger Marche of North Repps for wrongfully entering the said warren and poaching therein.⁹

Anne Read, his widow and executrix, in 1574, complains that one William Westines [?], late of Paston, yeoman, Symond Barouke [?] alias Gambly of Thurgarton, yeoman, on 1st September "last past and at dyvers other tymes sythence have not onelie entred into y^e Soken of Gymyngham wthout lycence of yo^r sde. oratrix but in contempt of its liberties have taken and killed certen Covytes of ptriches [partridges] and other plesures and bestes and fowles of warren, to the hyndrance and great displeasure of yo^r sd oratrix [and] to the discredite of her tyle and to the disablynge of yo^r sd oratrix to paye the yerelie payment of her ferme for the warren. And also to the manyfest disinterhison of the Quene's Ma^{tie}." She therefore prays for a writ directed against the two culprits.¹⁰

There are a set of answers to similar charges, also dated 1574, in which Thomas Nuttall, Steven Powle and Nicholas Alleyn, categorically deny that they have ever "molested any quantite of pces [pieces] of grounde wthin the manor . . . nor have they entered forcibly into any free warren and killed Conyes . . . [as is] most slanderously and untruelie alledged."¹¹

In 1591 we find Robert Browninge as one of the defendants in a suit undertaken by Anthony Death, the farmer of the demesne, denying "having taken any partridges in the said manor" and "as touching the killing or hunting of hares, conyes, etc., within the demesnes or copyholds of Gymyngham, he states that it was, in a former suit had between her Majesty's tenants of the said manor and her Majesty's farmers of the demesne lands, ordered and decreed when and in what manner the said tenants might hunt and kill conies, etc., to which order and decree defendant refers."¹²

The decay of the manor buildings was typical of the general effeteness of the manorial system. Not only

9. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 30, R. 7.

10. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 94, R. 4.

11. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 30, R. 7.

12. *Ibid.*, Vol. 153, D. 11.

had the Knights' Hall become a barn, but the authority of the lord and his courts and officers had dwindled until it was nothing more than the survival of a previous age with a fast diminishing jurisdiction. A certain carelessness of administration crept into the manor courts, and the rights both of the lord and tenants were often allowed to be set aside by the circumstances of the moment.

The Duchy Court was frequently called upon to decide debatable points. For instance, in Oct., 1580,¹³ Sir William Butt, knight, Robert Godfreye and Thomas ffunston, gentleman, are directed to hold a commission to settle what right the tenants had to kill rabbits within the Soke, and to assess the rent for so doing, and to fix the fines for excess of beasts in shack time. The preamble explains that in Hilary term, 15 Elizabeth, it was decided "that our tenants as well freeholders as copyholders within all the Soken of Gimingham shoold have all the conyes breedinge and dwellinge uppon every of their severall groundes to encrease or to distroy at their abties [abilities] and pleasures except such as shoolde breede uppon the demeanes of the said mannor which shoolde have been free chase and rechase [?] to feede uppon any of [the lands of] the said tenants" and that the said tenants . . . "shoold pay to our ffermor of Gimingham aforsaid for such conyes as shoold dwell and breede uppon their owne groundes the sum of liijs. iiijd. at Gimingham hall at certain feastes. And also that our tenants of every towne within the Soke of Gimyngham shoold have been at or before the courte then next to have bene holden at Gimyngham rated and assessed that noe man within any of the said Tounes shuld kepe in the feildes of the same more cattell or shepp in shack tyme of winter than they . . . did kepe uppon their groundes within the said Soken in somer uppon payne of forfayt of every horsse meare Geldinge and beaste so offendinge, and for every sheppe" the same penalty.

The judgement of the court is dated 28 April, 25 Elizabeth (two years later), and is entitled "Judgement in a case between the tenants of Gimingham and Francis Southwell,"¹⁴ (the farmer of the manor).

13. *D. of L. Special Commission*, No. 295.

14. *D. of L. Special Commission*, No. 336.

The verdict, which is of very great interest, as it limits the power of the farmer and defines the right of the tenants with regard to ground game, Sheep walk, etc., is divided into thirteen clauses, as follows:—

I. The farmer may only keep conies on the demesne lands. “We doe order that the Quenes Ma^{tie}s ffermor nor his assigns . . . shall kepe brede or maynteyne any conyes in or uppon Anie pcell of the manor or lordshippe but onelie uppon the Demeasne Land in his owne tenure and occupacon.”

II. The tenants are discharged from the imposed annual rent of 53s. 4d.

III. The tenants free to kill rabbits on their lands, but not to trap or ferret them. “It shall and may be letfull to ev^{rye} Copiholder to Digge upp and destroye all the Boroughes or berrys for Conyes nowe beinge or w^{ch} hereafter shalle be in Anie other groundes and to dryve hunte and Chase away the Conyes out of the sd grounde, and them to take and kyll so that it be not wth any nette mayes or ferretts.”

IV. No farmer may kill rabbits on the tenants' ground. No farmer “to kyll and destroye conyes . . . bred-inge dwellinge or mayteyned uppon the Tenn[an]ts free grounde but that it may be fitfull to any of the Tents to use the same at their owne pleasure accordinge as by the Lawe they oughte and maye.”

V. Limits of the farmer's fold course or sheep-walk. No farmer to “have anie ffolde course nor bringe his nor anie other Shepe to depasture in Shacke tyme or otherwise into any other ffields of the sd manor but onlye within the ffieldes of the Townshipes of Gymingham, Trymyngham and Mundesley on the North and Northe East Syde of the towne of Gymingham, and into the ffield of Suthreppes and Trunche on the South and South West . . . and then onlye wthin the poyntes and boundes hereafter menconed, videlt' in the North syde in all the ffieldes lyenge and compassed in betwene Potters gate mere on the west syde and certeyne boundes and meres by us nowe sett downe, from the Sth syde of Stonelands, Boylands and Syslonde, and so to the corner of Andrew Pratt's close on the east syde, and bounded with the sea on the Northe ende, and the severall closes leading from the sd Pratt's close to the Quenes myll of Gymingham on the Southende; and on the South and South West syde of Gymingham he shall shackle with his Shepe in the fyllde and purrell¹⁵ of

15. See post Chapter VI.

Trunche and Southreppes betwene the High Weye leadinge to Gymingham Street towarde Trunche unto a certeyne bounde uppon that weye by us nowe sett uppon the east syde and from that bounde directly as it is bounded to the corner of one newe enclosure made by John Worts on the South syde and so further bounded on the Southe with the hedges of the closes and the Southwood on the sayd South syde till ye come to the Weye leadinge [from] Appleyarde Streate to White Crosse and so still directlie alonge the sayd weye by White Crosse on the West syde till ye come to the bounde or mere by us sett upp uppon the sd weye at ffosters Styne another turninge directlie and streighte till ye come to the corner ends of Willm Dowties close and from ther it is bounded in with the Closes of the demeasnes and other closes of the Tennts on the Northe syde till ye come to the sd waye that leadeth from Gymingham to Trunch.

VI.
The farmer's
flock limited to
400.

The farmer is "not to bring in to the shackle more than fower hundred sheepe after the rate of ffyve score to the Hundred."

VII.
The tenants'
rights of sheep-
walk upon their
own and the
farmer's land
within the fold-
course, at the
rate of 1 sheep
per acre.

"All suche tenants as have anye lande wthin the ffolde-course or Shepe walke aforesaid shall and maye in consideracon that the ffermor dothe shackle with them with his Shepe aforesaid . . . lawfullie have shackle wth all ther great Cattell and Shepe as well uppon ther owne

Additional sheep
to be turned
out.

Lande wthin the Lymmitte and bounds As also uppon suche lande as the ffermor hath lyenge [within it] in suche sort as before tyme hath bene accustomed. [The land must not be overburdened but shacked at] "the rate of one Shepe for every acre they have amongst them all wthin the Shackle . . . and then it shall and may be lawfull to the Shepherds of the Quenes Ma^{tie}'s ffermer or other his Servnnts [servants] from tyme to tyme to wayve or turne out . . . Shepe so broken or put in above the number aforesaid."

VIII.
No enclosure of
the foldcourse
without consent.

No enclosures to be made within the fold course without the consent of the farmer and other tenants.

IX.
Old enclosures
to remain.

But it is agreed that the farmer, tenants and inhabitants may keep all enclosures made before the making of the agreement "without any leavinge open [of them] at the time of shackle."

X.
30 plough works
claimed by Peter
Rede are for-
gone by Mr.
Southwell.

"Touchinge the number of xxx ploughe workes claimed by Peter Rede, deceased, sometyme ffermor etc: videlt v ploughes in Gymingham, iiij ploughes in Try-

mingham, vj ploughes in Trunche, iij ploughes in South Repps and xij ploughes in North Repps, of the w^{on} ploughe workes, forasmuch as the sd Mr. Rede was new answered, neyther the sd Mr. Southwell nowe ffermor dothe make any Cleyme to the sd ploughes, neyther coulede have any Record to [prove] that any ffermor hath byne heretofor answered of the same and yet forasmuch as the tents are chargeable therewth by force of a decree [of the Duchy of Lancaster], ther humble suit is that they maye be discharged of the same, as also of iijs, ix*d*. wherewth the tents of Northreppes fynde themselves surcharged in certeyne other small workes by some order of" [the Duchy Court].

XI.
The tenants
pray to be dis-
charged of their
obligation.

"The wigons [wickners], Haywarde and Reve doinge and executinge ther sd offices shall have allowance of such duties and ffees as of ryghte apperteyneth to the sd offices or reasonable consideracon in lieu thereof as heretofore they byne accustomed."

XII.
Allowances for
the Wickners,
Hayward and
Reve.

Payments of fines by persons "keping in the fields with horses, mares, geldings and other beaste or shepe, or Shacke in wynter tyme other than suche as they did in somer tyme [keep] wthin the Soaken, should be paid to the Quenes Ma^{tie} and not to the ffermor."

XIII.
Fines for over-
charging the
shack to go to
the Queen.

In conclusion the Duchy Court is prayed to accept these conclusions.

The latter part of the last suit leads us on to the consideration of certain fresh aspects of manorial control in the 16th century, viz., the position of the manor officers, and the place which bondage and bond works still filled in the life of the cummunity.

The wickeners, the hayward and the reve continued to be elected according to the old rules and customs, and had to fulfil the same duties as heretofore, but each year their offices must have come to be less important as the manor jurisdiction and agriculture became merged in the wider life of the county and the nation.

As to bondage, although it was a dying system, it was by no means a dead one in the 17th century, as I have already tried to show.

CHAPTER VI.

A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MISCELLANY.

[Plowing up boundaries: the Purrill way: Tunstead Hundred Hill: Roads and Paths: Watercourses: Rook killing: Offences in the Common Fields: Land transactions: Payment in the Church Porch: the Houses: Repair of buildings: House without 4 acres: Shop used as tenement: Sale of beer: Masters and Servants: Headborough and Handborough: the Sea, wrecks, etc.: the Courts: Citations in foreign Courts: the Leech case.]

The batch of 17th century Gunton MSS. curiously enough are fuller of interesting and illuminating details of the Soke than are all the earlier rolls put together! The entries are more explicit, and from them we can reconstruct and interpret many habits and customs of manorial life which the older documents seem to ignore, probably because then they were taken for granted.

Ploughing up the meres between the strips in the open fields continues to be a frequent offence, for which considerable fines could be extorted, as, for instance, in 1614, when Myles Cook, of Gimingham, "was amarsed for plowing part of a meare a way and had not payed the same at the day apoynted, therefore [the jury] fynd the payne lost ijs. iiij^d. and Doo com^d. [command] hym to mend the same betwin this tym and Hallowmas next uppon a new payne of ijs. viij^d."

Some of the larger meres seem to have served as parochial boundaries, and along them the parishioners went when they beat the bounds. These paths were often called the "Purrill or Purrilly Way" (i.e., the way *pour aller*), as, for example, in the case of Robert Bateman, junior, of North Repps, who is presented in July, 1634, for that "he hath plowed away the pirill meare dividinge Northreppes and Southreppes." In the same

month Symond Copland, of Gimingham, is likewise presented "for plowing uppe a Common Waye called Pottergate meare." While in North Repps "John Gray fermor of Mr. Nicholas Carre doth annoye the p^urell meare wth his fures ow' [over] hanginge in the Close next Winspers" and the same default is committed "in the next Close by James Lawson in the same pambulacon waye."

That these purrill ways were actually parish boundaries seems evident from the alternative use of the epithets *purrell* and *perambulation* way, and from the common expression "to go the purrell," "to fetch within their purrill." I am not aware that this interpretation of the purrell way has previously been put forward, and in the printed references which I have already quoted¹ no suggestion is made as to the actual purpose of the path, which is merely described as a way *pour aller*. It may, therefore, be of some interest to give a few quotations from the 17th Century Gimingham Rolls which clearly show that the purrell mere or purrell way was in fact the boundary in the open fields between adjoining parishes, and that therefore it came to be called the perambulation way, owing to the annual custom of going on the perambulation, in other words, of beating the bounds of the parish.

Failure to "go
the Purrell."

In August, 1614, the Gimingham jury amercy "John Spenser iij*l*. gent Wm. Helsden iij*l*. sen. Willm Cooke iij*l*. Robert Rysborough iij*l*. Robert Trace iij*l*. Richard Welhouse iij*l*. Nicholas Sall iij*l*. Thoms Vggs Richard Wyther iij*l*. for y^t [that] they did not goe the purrell of Bradfield wth the Inhabitants of Bradfield aforsaid according as ther Ansesteres have done in tymes past. We payne them no more so to doe upon the payne of eny of them iijs. iiij*l*." And again in 1629 the North Repps jury fine "Tho: Alcocke senr. gent & Robt Neale" for not having "gone there p'ambulacon."

Encroachment
into another
parish.

Sometimes the purrill was taken beyond its lawful limits, as when in 1614 the Gimingham jury amercy "Edmund Barret Thomas Capurm Robt Allen Edmund Wyther Willm Prymrose Robit farmer John Howard Capurm Nicholas Lubboche John Barret John Tompson the older that doe wrongfully ffetch wthin thir purrell of

1. See pp. 134-5.

Tunstead Hun-
dred Hill.

Antingham [called in a previous presentment the "p'ambulacon of Antingham,"] the como' [common] of thorpe called oldfild heath Contrary to the decree mad in the Duchie Camb (chamber) in H 8 (Henry VIII), the comon in Bradfild on the South syd of Tunsted Hundred hill & also other seurall [several i.e., enclosed] grounds in the same towne eastwards of the said hill, we payne the[m] no more so to do upon payne of Xs. of eny of them."

The above extract has a double interest, for not only does it describe an unlawful extension of the Antingham purrell, but it also throws light on the position of the Tunstead Hundred Court, which has not hitherto been identified. As far as one can gather from this brief reference to the Hundred Hill its site must have been somewhere between Bradfield Church and the Barge Inn, the former standing upon what in this flat district may be called a considerable hill. It is curious to find the Tunstead Hundred Hill situated at the very south-westernmost limit of the hundred, for although Bradfield itself is in Tunstead Hundred, all the other places mentioned in the document are in the Hundred of North Erpingham, and one would expect to find the seat of the Hundred Court more in the centre of its Hundred.

But we must return to our Purrilly Way!

Failure to give
notice of perambulacon.

Apparently the Parish Constables had to summon the inhabitants to go on the perambulation, and in July, 1640, the Gimingham Court Leet finds "that Richard Gogill gent one of the Constables of Giminghm did not give convenient notice to the parishion's [parishioners] for the goeng of their purrell for the which we doe amcy [amercy] him iij*℥*."

Purrell Stiles.

The purrell way seems to have been a constant bone of contention. Sometimes the complaint was that the necessary stiles had not been put up upon it as in 1629 when Willm Harold is fined by the Trimmingham jury for "not mayntening a Stile uppon the purrell which ought to stand uppon the South sid of the Orchard which Layeth next to the Waye," Milesent Harold being fined "for a purrell Stille mayntayning uppon the aforesaid way uppon the north sid of the Orchard." The jury for the same place had to admit in 1632 that a "payne" or fine had been lost "for not Seting the purell Still in Worsteds Carr."

Stopping up the
Purrell, etc.

Even more complaints arose through the unlawful stopping up of the purrell way or encroaching upon or destruction of a purrell mere. The North Repps Inquest in 1629 makes sundry presentments. "Tho: Cawston hath stopped wth thornes the p'ambulacon waye devidinge Northrepes & Sidestrond neare a place called the reds," whilst Martin Ryse has incroached "wth his plowe upon a p'ambulacon meare devidinge Northreppes & Southreppes at a place comonly called Milhill." In 1632 Thomas Lawson of Thorpe Market is fined 6d. "for stoping of the purell waye deviding Northreppes & Southreppes at a place called Whinspurres" and Tymothie Oates 3d. "for incrotching upon a purrell meare dividing Northreppes and Southreppes." In the same year Olifer Halyt is presented for "erecting a ditch in and upon the Purrell Waye" between Gimingham and South Repps. In July, 1652, Thomas Blyth is amerced 3d. by the Court Leet "for stoping upp a Certeyne stile Waye & purrell way wth a gate or doore nayled upp there devidinge the bounds of Northrepes & Sidestrond & comand him to unnayle the same before Mich [Michaelmas] next & to use itt as itt have beene used upon payne of iijs. iiij^d."

The purrell way was probably often of a considerable width and we read in one place of trees growing upon the purrell mere.

Besides these disputes over the purrell way we find a constant complaining by the juries of damage done by the tenants to the paths, lanes and roads within the Soke, either by actually stopping them up or by allowing thorns or rubbish to block them.

In the "Vardet made by the Letteres" [i.e., verdict at the Court Leet] of Trimingham in August, 1629, Richard Langwod is fined 3d. for putting a stile on a "horseway . . . leding from the stret to the marss rendell," and in Gimingham Thomas Lawsoome is presented "for stopping up a way at Woote Well."

In 1632 Abraham Temple of Sydistrond is amerced 3d. "for suffering his thornes to overhange the waie leadinge from Sydistrond to Northreips called Sinelts lane;" and in the same year the Quest at Large "doe finde that Willm Morson of Trunch doth suffer his woods to overhange the Kinges highway in Trunch & leadinge

from Gymingham towards North Walsham & is Comonly called Stannards lane for which we Amercie him iij*d.*: We amercie Samuell Matchett gent & John Gryme of Trymingham each of them iij*d.* for that they suffer their thornes and Brambles to overhange a common packway in Gymingham comonly called ffenlooke we amercy the Inhabitants of the Towne of Gymingham v*d.* for that they have not sufficyently repayred & manured a Comon way lyinge in the said Towne Comonly called ffenne or packe lane." Again, in Gimingham George Gryme, jun., gent, is fined 3*d.* "for putinge bye of a Comon packe waye wth styles ledinge from Mundslые to Southreupes."

Court held at 3
a.m.

At a Court held by the Steward on 14 March, 1639, at 8 a.m., at the house of William Harmer in South Repps, William Clarke and Thomas Playford are amerced 6*d.* "for false clamoringe of the Cheife Pledges at large sworne: uppon their p'sentm^t by the[m] made of Annyance [annoyance] in erecting c'teyne [certain] ditches uppon the kings heighe waie Leadinge fro Northrepes to Southrepes, And of the said Clarke more v*s.* viij*d.* for a payne forfayted for not amendinge the ditches aforesaid w^{ch} he was warned to doe," Playford also having to pay the same "payne."

In 1640 Samuel Matchet, gent, is again fined 3*d.* "for that he suffereth his boughes at burnt pightle to ow'hange Yarmouthе waye."

The Trunch jury in July, 1652, fine Thomas Thexton, "Clerke" (rector of Gimingham 1623-1650), Edmond Peirse, Robert Milam and Henry Wither 3*d.* each "for annoyeinge the high way by layinge heaps of mucke in the waye there leadinge from Bradfeild to Trunch."

Fieing the
watercourses.

The village community was not only responsible for the proper upkeep of the roads, it had also to keep the streams and brooks clear and clean. It was the duty of each tenant to "fie" or scour out the watercourses which traversed his land. This expression is derived from the Icelandic *fægja*, to cleanse, polish, and is in common use in East Anglia.²

2. See Skeat, *Glossary of Tudor and Stuart words*. "Fay, to clear away filth, to clean out a ditch or pond . . . spelt *fie*. Tusser, *Husbandry*, § 20, 21. In common prov. use in the north country and in East Anglia: in the former 'fey' is the usual form, in the latter 'fie.'"

Such entries as the following abound:—In Gimingham, in 1629, the “landholders of Bartram Wortes” are fined “for not skoring out the water course from Gytingham Mill to Monesle,” and in Mundesley “Wm: Isacke & John Harmer, Churchwardens,” are fined “for not fyeing the becke of the towne ground of Mondsley.” In the same place in 1632 Gabrell Sall and Richard Browninge are amerced “for not fieinge his beckes be nethe wood, ffrances Bradfield for not ffeinge nere wisewast [and] the Inhabitants of Mondsley for not fieinge ther Beckes nere Mundsley bridge.”

John Bartram, of Trimingham, is presented in 1634 for not having “scored the bake lea[d]ing from Claping Dam to benintons bake,” and in 1640 the jury for the same place fine Robert Daber for “not skoring the becke leading from boyes well to Clappin dam.” The South Repps jury in 1649 “finde by the oath of Thomas Wells that Robt Gray hath stopped a certeine Runne or Water course next the Comon Waye in Appleyard Streete running from the great pitt there, whereby the said waye is annoyed or hindred,” and in 1652 Robert Slapp, of the same place, is fined 3d. “for not scouringe the watercourse between Lodge quarter [?] “Lords quarters,”] & the ground of Mr. Myngay.”

Rook killing.

Besides having to keep the roads, paths and water-courses in good order, the village community was also responsible for the destruction of vermin and birds which might do damage to the crops. In 1640 we find the tenants of Gimingham remiss in the execution of this duty. “Wee doe fynde that the township of Gimingham hath not sufficiently maynteyed & employed a Rooknett for the taking & killing of Roks for the w^{ob} wee doe am’cy them xij*℥*. & sett a payne of vjs. viij*℥*. upon them if they p’vide [provide] not a sufficient Rooknett before the feast day of St. Andrewe next cominge.”

Offences in the common pasture.

Offences against the common pasturage were as frequent in the 17th century as they were in the 16th. In 1614 the Quest at large fines Mr. Gogell “for lettinge [i.e. allowing] of Shacke before harvest was done,” and in the same year the Trimingham jury “amarcy Will Clarke of Sydstrond for suffering his swine to go unringed wthin the purrell and field of Trimingham and the Gimingham jury present “John Spenser gent for y^t he doth lett his swyne geo unrynged & not yoked upon

the Como [common] of bradfield" [and] "for serchargin the sd Como' with his Cattell. We amercy Robit Cubet xij*d.* for serchargine & keping of a great^r nomb [greater number] of Shepe & other Cattell then the terme & sum of acr [acres] of his land in Bradfield do gyue him leue. We am'cy John Colyer of Trunch iij*d.* for y^t he dyd suffer his swyne to goe Unrynged in the como of bradfield & other places." Richard Brettyngnam is also fined for keeping sheep on the common of Bradfield. In 1629 John Bateman *sen* is presented for suffering "a foale to go at large in the cornfield in Southreps [and] Robt Pegg doth the like."

The Hulver jury in 1634 complain of the inroads of an absolute trespasser with no common rights—one Oliver Green who has suffered "his sheppe to feede uppon the Comon of Antingham that Leadeth from the gate called akergate unto a gate claled [*sic* for called] Bradfeld gate on the South syde of that way."

Certainly the commonest offence of this class was the allowing swine to go unringed in the common fields in shack time, thereby causing damage to the stubble by their rooting and grubbing. In addition to the examples already given two typical ones must be added. The North Repps jury in 1614 inflict 3*d.* fines on Thomas Playford, Richard Payne and Gregory Colbye "for letting their swine goe unpegged in the tyme of shackle to the great annoyance of the inhabitants of Northrepps." And in 1640 the Gimingham Court Leet complains that Richard Clipperton "suffered a hogge swyne to goe unringed in the field there in the tyme of shack."

Amongst the presentments of this class we get allusions to "the Field of Gimingham," "the Field of Trunch called Dames Croft" and "the South Field of Trunch." Most of the open fields of the villages were as yet unenclosed in the 17th century, and the common field system was still full of vitality. Each new year as it came, however, knocked a nail in its coffin, for the decay of manorial authority gradually removed the overruling force which in later times had kept together communal agriculture, the growth of individualism aroused a new spirit directly opposed to its social scheme and the

growing facility for the purchase and sale of land made it unpopular and unpractical. The extent of this buying and selling of small blocks of land in the 17th century is shown in the Court Rolls. Not only are surrenders in order to sell increasingly frequent but mortgages between the tenants became the order of the day for the purpose of raising the purchase money of fresh land, or to pay for the mortgaged land itself. Land in fact was becoming a commercial investment and the personal property of individuals, whereas hitherto it had been the one source of supply for the necessities of life and the common holding of the whole community.

Payments due in
Church porches.

There is one curious feature in these mortgages in Gillingham which I do not think has often been commented upon in print, and it is this—nearly all payments are to be made in the porch of the parish Church of one of the parties interested in the transaction.³ The formula was as follows:—

"1614. 19 Ap. Surrender by Nycholas Bateman the older, by the hands of Nicholas Wither bond tenant, in the p'sence of Richard Browninge & Tho Cybitt likewise bond tenants, all his messuages, tenements and lands bond lyeinge in Gymyngham & Mundesley, w^{ch} uppon the day of the date hereof are in his bond tenure & w^{ch} [amongst others] he late hadd and took upp . . . of the surrender of John Albon, (except the remainder of one roode of land bond sealond wth a cotage there uppon builte in Gymyngham late Blofeilds) [That the lord may regrant the premisses to the said Nycholas Bateman and his heirs] so that they shall pay or cause to be payd in the south porche of the pishe [parish] Church of Southrepps . . . unto Willm Bates . . . the sume of one hundred and fyfthe poundes of lawfull Englishe money uppon the feaste day of St. John Baptiste w^{ch} shalbe in the yeare of our lord God one thousand Sixe hundred and fyfteene Betweene the houres of one and fyve of the

3. Dr. Bennet, writing in *Norfolk Arch.*, Vol. X., p. 308., comments on the important part which the Church porch once played in village life. "In it bonds and debts were frequently, or even commonly made payable. It was sometimes a place of "rendezvous" for the settlement of disputes between neighbours, and in religious matters it was here, "ante ostium ecclesiæ" that bride and bridegroom plighted their troth. There, too, even in the first reformed Baptismal office . . . the little children . . . were to be met by the priest."

Clocke in the afternoone of the daye, otherwise defaulte of paymt [payment] shalbe made of the same sune or anie part therof at the tyme and place aforesayd then to the onlie use of the sayed John [sic, for Willm] Bates, his heires & assignes forever." (signed) Nicholas Wether, Richard Browninge and Thomas Cubitt.

It is noteworthy that in the above example, as in the great majority of Gimingham surrenders of the 17th century, the expressions *bond tenant* and *bond land* occur quite as a matter of course just as though bondage was still in full force within the Soke. I am inclined to think that by this time the terms had become merely legal fictions and that the tenure was to all intents and purposes ordinary copyhold, yet at the same time one cannot overlook the fact dwelt upon in another chapter, that bondage with most of its villein disabilities and customs did survive until an unusually late date in the manor of Gimingham.

Particulars of a few more of these mortgages and their payment may be of interest (in the first example it will be seen that the land is definitely described as copyhold).

1631. Thomas Cubit surrenders to Richard Browninge copyhold land in Gimingham and Trunch unless payment be made by him of £54 "upon the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel in the porch of the parish Church of Gimingham."

1632. The Trimingham jury on 11 April "find that George Clarke did pay the full sum of thirty twoo pounds eight shillings uppon a mortgag' to Jhon Allin in the porch of the pish Church of Trimingha' According to the surrender."

1632. John Sayve surrenders to Andrewe Allablaste, land in Trunch, unless the sum of £12 8s. be paid "in or upon the feast Daye of Thannunciacon of the Blessed Virgin Marye," 1635, "in the porche of the pishe Church of Trunche."

1632. George Clarke surrenders to Richard Gogill land in Trimingham and Gimingham on an annual payment of £3 10s. "to the said Rich. Gogill or his assignes . . . & every yeare duringe the naturall life of Marie

(his) now wife . . . upon the feast daies of St. Michael the Archangell and the Annuntiacon of o^r blessed Lady St. Marie the virgin, by even & equall porcons at or in the south porch of the parish Church of Gimingham."

1633. William Browninge and Thomas Bastard *gent* surrender by the hands of Thos: Wortes and Thos: Cutlack all customary tenants, a tenement in Trunch called Stannards and 3 acres of land etc. to the use of Robert Gogle of Trunch, unless £22 be paid to him on 25 Oct. 1634 "in the porch of the pish Church of Trunch."

Our ancestors without doubt looked upon the Church as the centre of the parish, not only for worship but also as a convenient place for meeting and for carrying through business transactions. The Church was essentially the property of the parishioners and not of the parson alone, as it unfortunately seems to have become nowadays. However, the old idea must have had its drawbacks too, and we should hardly like to have a manorial commission summoned to meet in a Church, as it was in May, 1611, when the commissioners assembled in Knapton Church for their deliberations, afterwards making their report at Gimingham Hall!

The Houses.

In spite of the increased mobility and partability of land the old regulations as to tenure still obtained. Apart from the distinctions of bond land, lancett land, free land and so on (which are dealt with elsewhere), we still get the Gimingham custom of speaking of Houses or Tenements rather than of the individual tenant thereof. For instance, the "Chosers of the Wickner" for North Repps in 1632 "find Thomas Playford for to goe Wickner for the howse Carwyne for this yeare to come" and in 1633 Thomas Rugge, of the same place, writes to the Steward "I doe also put the sayd Tho: Playford in authority to serve as wickner for my howse Southwood in Northrepes." Some of the North Repps house names are particularly attractive, as for instance, the "tenement called Annydoes in a certeine streete there called Crossdale Streete,"⁴ with the lands and homestalls of the said messuage" which Richard Cutlacke *thelder*, surrenders to William Copeman, of Paston in 1634.

4. Part of North Repps is still called Crossdale Street.

Each House continued to render "House leve" (House levy) to the wickner, though the collection of this due is often found to be in arrears. In the Court Rolls for 1651 five shillings is due from the wickner of Gimingham "for a ffine for Respise of suite for ffifteene lost houseleives there" and again in 1652 "of the wickner there iijs. viijs. for a ffine for Respise of suite of xj lost houseleives there" and on another occasion "iijs. iiij*d*. for xlij lost houseleives there." The tenants were also often remiss in paying suit of court for their houses, and were fined for this at the rate of 4*d*. a house. In this same year we get an interesting list of house names.

[Trimingham]. Of Robert Pace viij*d*. for the houses Palett & Preist, of the heysr of Edmond M'getson [Margetson] viij*d*. for the houses Cockring & Chelsea, of John Gryme iiij*d*., for the house ffox, Walteredison & Westgate, of Rich. Gryme iiij*d*. for the house Culver seu'ally amced [severally amerced] as on theire heads for defalt in their seu'all suites for the said houses att this Co^{rt}." [South Repps]. "Of Tho Akers iiij*d*. for the house Hurry, Nicholas Carr esq^r. viij*d*. for the houses Underwoods & Payne, Nicholas Cawston iiij*d*. for the house Spinks, Will^m Bateman iiij*d*. for the house Hubbard." [Trunch]. "Of Richard Oliver iiij*d*. for the house Estgate, Tho Johnstone iiij*d*. for the houses Amys [erasure], Richard Johnstone for the houses Well & Powles, Robt Mason iiij*d*. for the house Sexton, Tho: & Rich Worts xij*d*. for the houses West, Pottergate and Winter, of Ro: Woorts xij*d*. for y^e houses Carr, Godfrey & Pettyman, Susan Daynes iiij*d*. for the house Bond, Willm ffarefax iiij*d*. for the house Church, Robt flight iiij*d*. for the house Silkinge, John Heres iiij*d*. for the house Jubledorne [?], John Woorts iiij*d*. for the house Call, Lawrence Purgall iiij*d*. for the house (illegible) . . . Gryme, Elizabeth Wyther iiij*d*. for the house Bettewarren, Willm Harm' [Harmer] iiij*d*. for the houses Humfry & Elcocke & Edmond Brigg gent viij*d*. for the houses Hill and Green." Of the continuity of country names there is no doubt and a reference to an old 15th century rental of Trunch shows that ten of the 17th century house names were in use at that period, viz., East (Eastgate), West Winter, Godfrey, Petima' (Pettyman), Ochirche (Church), Colle (Call), Gryme (Grim,

Walt Grim and Gryme occur), Betelbaryn (Bettewarren) and Elcok.⁵

Repair of tenements.

The old legal axiom "waste of a copiholder is forfeiture of his copihold, if there is no custom to the contrary" was not enforced with its full severity in the manor of Gimingham, but at the same time the copyhold tenants were obliged to keep their tenements in good repair under pain of amercement. Such presentments as the following are common enough.

"Sidestrond, 1614. A vardet [verdict] made the 29th daye of ap[ri]l [*sic*] for Ester Jenural [Easter General Court] Itm we marse [amercy] Tho Christmas vj^d. for that his Barne is out of Repairs for want of thacking and Dabing & we payne him vs. to amend the same by Saynt James next.

We find that the Barne of Edward Johnson is out of Repair for want of thacking by the last tempest & marse him iij^d. & payne him vs. to amend the same by the next of the Jennerals."

The Quest at Large in the same year "finde that Robert Grix gen' hath not reedified his Copyhold [in Hulver] houlden of this mannor as we commanded him to doe at Easter, "so he is fined 3s. 4d."

In 1632 no less a person than Sir Edmund Paston, knight, is fined for not repairing a tenement which he has bought from Richard Harmer, and in the same year the South Repps jury fine William Harmer, *sen*, 6d. for allowing "a barne called Hurryes barne to be in decay for want of thacking and dawbing." In 1633 Thomas Clarke, of Trimingham, is fined twice "for suffering his tenement & Barne called Bakers to be in decaye for want of thatching & dawbing" and "for suffering his barne belonging to Asketles⁶ to be in decay for want of thatching & Carpenters worke."⁷

5. Other house and tenement names occurring in the Rental are, Key, Lewys, Prik, Borde, Pote, Wortis, Hagge, Ape, Barkere, Oylkyn, Ocheys, Wodlkyn, Puddins, Leffled, Pyning, Buning, Butfrey de Trunch, Easybryth, Kyl, Edlkard, Cordyng, Kestyns, Colke, Mase (etc.). A good deal of this Gunton MS. is illegible and it is undated, but the name of Adam de Horningtoft occurs, which places it in the 15th century.

6. This ancient Trimingham house name occurs in some of the earliest of the Court Rolls.

7. Perhaps the most interesting case of this kind is that referred to on p. 389, when George Gryme junior is ordered to re-edify his barn which still exists with the date "G.G. 1633."

House built
without 4 acres
of land.

Two interesting presentments are made by the South Repps jury in 1629. "We fyne [*sic*] that Jerromy Purgold hath built a tenemt wthout 'leyeng [allowing] fower acres of ground Contrary to the Statute [and] James Crome⁸ hath done the like." The Statute referred to is that of 31 Elizabeth, c. 7, which enacted that no new cottage should be erected without having four acres of land attached thereto.

Shop used as a
tenement.

The second presentment seems to show that there was a rigid rule as to the use and tenure of shops within the manor. "We fynd that Nicholas Nichall [?] doth continewe his house lately a shop for a tenement Contrary to o^r former p^rsentmt At the last lete And hath continewed the same by the space of 3 monethes."

The mention of shops takes one's thoughts to buying and selling and it may be noted in passing that at this period the manor courts continued to exercise their authority over traders within the Soke, as for example in July, 1652, when they fined George Gervise 6d. "for sellinge beere in unlawfull quarls."⁹

We have said a good deal about the Houses of the manor in the 17th century, but not very much about the dwellers in them. What was their status according to our modern notions? Did any of them keep servants or were they all of the class that does its own work for itself? The last question is easily answered, for according to the custom of the Soke of Gimingham all servants had to be hired and registered by their masters at the Petty Sessions of the manor, and so among the Gunton MSS. there are endless lists of "masters and servants," which give us a very good notion of the relative importance of the different local families.

Taking the year 1629 as a fairly typical one we find twelve persons in Gimingham who employed one or more servants, Mr. Gogill and Samuel Matchett keeping as many as three. The list is as follows:—

8. Many Cromes occur in the Soke at different times. Were they ancestors to Old Crome and his son?

9. *Quarle* as a verb is given by Skeat as *to curdle, to coagulate*, (Tudor and Stuart Glossary). Quarrel on the other hand means a square pane of glass in a window. It is doubtful if the presentment is for selling beer in bad condition, or if the unlawfull *quarls* were the receptacles!

Mr. Gryme's servants.	{ Helena Bleake. Elizabeth Lam- bert.	[in 1640 George Gryme employed 2 men and 3 women ser- vants]. ¹⁰
Mr. Gogill's servants.	{ Agnes Bund. Jane Tuck. Philip Younger.	[in 1640 he had one woman ser- vant, and Thomas Gogyll, 2 servants].
Rich. Brown- inge's servant.	Prudence Hob- son.	
Sam. Matchet's servants.	{ Thomas Sacker. Elizabeth Rise- borowe. Elizabeth Caws- ton.	[in 1640, 2 men and 1 woman].
Thomas Cubit jun: his servants.	{ Margaret Clark. Robt. Collings.	[in 1640-1 Thos: Callowe].
Thomas Jowler his servants	{ John Studdale. Robt. Grix.	[in 1640, 2 men and 1 woman].
Rich. Johnson, John Ulfe, Edmond Skerwitt Thos. Cubit, John Cubit, and Edward Cleydon, each employed one servant.		

If we turn to other similar lists, say those for 1632, we find six employers of servants in Mundesley, fourteen in North Repps, eleven in South Repps, three in Side-
strand, eight in Trimingham and nine in Trunch.

MUNDESLEY.

Thomas Bradfield his ser- vants.	{ John Jewell. Elizabeth Dawson.
Willm Pratt his servant.	Anne ffenne.
Thomas Harmer his servants.	{ Thomas Archer. Anne Lynstye.
ffrances Bradfild his servant.	{ Willm ffayreman. Nicholas Howes. Easter Howes.
Willm Warde his servant.	Alice Archer.
Nicholas Allen his servant.	Xpofer [Christopher] Tompson.

10. I have added comparisons from the list of a few years later.

AN EAST ANGLIAN SOKE.

NORTH REPPS.

Richard Hereike, ¹¹ Clarke,	{ Marie Kempe. John Robeson [erased]
Thomas Playford,	{ ffranches Allwood. [another erased].
Richard Langood,	{ Robert Macke. Prudence Balcing.
Robt Wilson [erased].	
Stephen Ams,	Nicholas Amis.
Thomas Cutlack,	Marie Browne.
Tymothie Oates, ¹²	{ Willm Temple [erased] [Another erased]. Agnes Payne.
Widdow Gray,	{ Cossely Nabbs. — Neale.
Henrie Playford,	Dorithe Temple.
Willm Cooke,	Jane Hipper.
Gregorie Colby,	John Estines.
Edward Coker,	Kateren Briggs.
Tho: Alcocke, gent,	Margaret Kempe.
Richard Cutlacke,	{ Robt. fflaxman. Susan Angell.
Willm Grout,	Agnes Bugden.
Thomas Payne,	Katren [erased]

SOUTH REPPS.

Edmund Pendleton, Clark [Rector],	Rachel.
Raphe Hartstonge gent,	{ Margaret Dybald. Margarett Bullman. George Parker.
Robt. Blofeld,	{ George Howard. Agnes Wortes. Mary Brett.

11. ? Richard Heyrick, rector of North Repps, 1667-1708.

12. It is quite possible that Timothy was the ancestor of the notorious Titus Oates. At any rate the family had a similar taste in Christian names! See Rye's *Norfolk Families*, p. 624.

Willm flight,	{ John Badecocke.
	{ Amy Nottingham.
John Kilby [erased].	George Wryght.
	alibi
Willm Prymrose,	Thomas Lawes [erased]
Robt Bartram jun	{ Nicholas Tompson.
	{ Alice Grand.
Robt Worts,	Robt Redinge.
Tho: ffisher,	Sara ffisher.
Widdowe Gilbert,	her daughter Agnes
	Gilbert.
Thomas Pegg,	his wife's daughter
	Agnes Mason.

SYDISTROND.

Thomas Doodes, gent,	{ John Dibald.
	{ Mary Poale.
Willm Clarke, gent,	{ Willm Nabbes.
	{ Elizabeth Cubit.
	{ Susan Baldwin.
John Ellis,	Sara Payne.

TRYMINGHAM.

Mr. Clapperson,	{ Joane Neave.
	{ Elizabeth fox.
Jhon Gryme,	Annis Dye.
Robt pase,	Mary Monny.
Jhon Allin,	Elizabeth Brada° [sic]
Rychard Gryme,	Annis Wix.
Willyam Clarke,	Dorrythie Maryes.
Robt Bartram,	Elizabeth Tynck.

TRUNCH.

Mr. Thexton Clarke [erased],	ffrancis Galer.
Robt flight,	John Smyth.
Willm Harmer,	{ Willm Cubitt.
	{ Henry Sprunt.
	{ Mary Jell.

Richard Woorts,	John Robinson [erased]
	Buckskins.
	Katherin Salman
	[erased]
	Mary Smyth.
Thomas Bartram,	Mary Pace.
Robt Gogle,	Thomas fflockden.
	Sara Bradfield [erased]
Nicholas Wither,	Robt Brone.
Willm Austine,	Mary Cobley.
Thomas Primerose,	ffrancis Gilbert.

This custom of enrolling the masters and servants was not always obeyed, and in the Court Rolls a good many persons are presented for failure to register their servants. In 1632 William Warder, of Mundesley, is fined 3d. "for not Bringin his mad servant mad" [maid]. In 1651 the Gimmingham Court Leet fine Edmond Elvyn 3d. "for not bringinge his servant Elizabeth Lynes to these Petty Sessions there to be retyned accordinge to the custome," and in 1652 it amerces "Bartholomew Clerke vjd. for not bringinge nor causing to be brought his servants Ellen Sanith & Margaret Hipp" and "Rich. Woorts iijd. for not bringinge his svant Richard Newland to the Petty Sessions there to be re-tynd according to the Custome."

Demand for
higher wages.

While speaking of servants it is interesting to find a labourer attempting to strike for higher wages in 1632. The South Repps jury "amercy Thomas Archer iijd. for that he dyd abbuse hyme selfe and dyd byd Thomas Causton to rysse his [? wages] for noe cause but that he dyd byd hys [him] to goe to his work in y^e heyge wayes & yf he shall doe any mor so wee set amercymt of xxd." I am afraid that these precursors of Joseph Arch and the Labourers' Unions probably got very little satisfaction out of their masters in disputes carried to the manor courts!

Headboroughs
and hand-
boroughs.

Along with the annual certificates of masters and servants are other lists of all the Head-borroughes and Hand-borroughes in each township. The titles seem to be curious, and although the Head-borough or burgess is fairly obvious in its meaning, it is difficult to find a meaning for Hand-borough. Skeat in his "Tudor and

Stuart Glossary" gives the phrase "*to hand with*, to go hand in hand with, to concur," which may give us a clue to its meaning, if we take it that the Handboroughs were a united group of the lesser tenants. The word borough or borrow, as it is often written, is in itself an interesting link with an earlier age. Borow or borrow, to quote the same great etymologist, signifies "a pledge, surety," and comes from the Old English "*borh*, (*borge*), a pledge. surety." So after all we find that the title of Headborough is an equivalent expression to that of Chief Pledge, with, moreover, a derivation which gives it seniority in years to the Norman variation.¹³ The Gimingham lists themselves give an admirably full roll of the male inhabitants and serve as a regular Red Book Directory of the inhabitants of the Soke in the 17th Century.

Now and again we come across Headboroughs, jury-men or "homagers" who are fined for absence from their duties, or plead sickness or other unavoidable causes as their "essoins." The North Repps jury in 1632 "present that Richard Gray one of the last homage is sicke and not able to come to doe his service." Sometimes the man in question is far away beyond the confines of the manor, as for instance when (in curious English!) the Trimmingham jury for the same year "find Jhon Burges being one of ower omage but he is at sea."

Wrecks.

The sea has played a big part in the life of the Soke in all ages. Nearly every year there are records of its depredations on the coast line, of land lost in the sea, and, too, of that jealously guarded manorial franchise, wreck of the sea. In "Records of a Norfolk Village," I have told of some of the 17th century disputes over wreckage between Thomas Doodes, lord of Sydestrond-Poynings and the lords of Gimingham-Lancaster, and the Court Rolls of the same period throw further light on the manner in which Gimingham-Lancaster could claim its share of all the wrecks cast upon its coasts. From the following examples it seems that the tenant who recovered the wreckage might keep it on paying "groundage" to the lord of the manor, which

13. In *D. of L. Depns.*, 12 Chas. I., No. 7, one interrogatory is "Had not the toune of Sydestrond with other of the *headboros* there usually served at Courte Leete or view of frankpledge holden for the said manor" (etc.). See *Records of a Norfolk Village*, p. 32.

in some cases amounted to one half or even more of its money value. In the Trimingham and Mundesley examples, however, only a very small percentage was paid, but for what reason does not appear.

Trymingham, 30th Sept., 1651.

Of John Gryme iijs. ix*d.* for the groundage of one ship taken upp att the sea shore & apprised att ii*jl*i. xvs.

Of Tho Crispe iijs. ix*d.* for the groundage of one Cheste . . . apprised att ii*jl*i xvs.

Of Richard Bartram Jun js. v*j*d. for the groundage of one other Cheste . . . apprised at *j*li. xs.

Of Tho Crispe x*j*d. for groundage of one Barrell of oyle . . . apprised att xxs.

Of Isaacke Newman, Robt Bartram and Tho Bartram x*j*d. each for the groundage of Barrells of oyle apprised at xxs. each.

Of Tho Crispe & Richard Clippton xijs. for one gun taken app as wrecke of sea and apprised at xxiijs.

Mundesley, 30th Sept., 1651, and 27th April, 1652.

Of John Allen x*j*d. groundage of one Barrell of oyle . . . apprised att xxs.

Of Willm Drap iijs. groundage of one Barrell of oyle . . . apprised att ii*jl*i.

Of Nicholas Allen x*d.* for certeyne wrecke of sea . . . apprised at xxs.

Of Tho Bowen ii*d.*, Isaacke Newman ii*d.*, John Sall ii*d.* thedr & Isaacke Slapp ii*d.* for carrying away of one Capstyn taken upp at Mondesley.

Sidestronde, 27th April, 1652.

Of Tho: Temple Tho: Wether & Lawrence Monyman xxijs. for the groundage of two vessells of oyle by them taken upp att the sea shore & apprised att xxxvijs. by Tho: Crism* [Christmas] & Tho: Blith.

Of the said Tho: Temple & Tho: Whether x*v*d. for certeyne wrecke . . . apprised att ijs. v*j*d.

Of the said Tho: Temple & Tho: Whether ijs. for one Ships Pump taken by him as wrecke of sea . . . apprised att iijs.

Of Edward Clerke Tho: Elden John Bawchin Jo: Dyball Willm Rend [?] & Tho: funalls x*j*d. for certeyne wreck of sea . . . apprised att ijs. by Tho: doods the younger & Philip Elden.

Of Tho: Elden & John Gryme the younger *iiijd.* for one pillow board . . . apprised att *viiijd.*

Of Tho: Webstr Tho: Temple & John Swayne *vs.* for one vessell of wyne . . . apprised by John Ellis & Tho: Doods at *xs.*

Of Robt Cutlacke Abraham Temple the younger & Vincent Carter *vjd.* for one Capp head of a mast . . . apprised att *xijd.*"

At the present day the lords of Gimmingham-Lancaster and Sydistron-Poynings still receive occasional small sums from the Board of Trade as their share of "wreck of sea" on their foreshore.

Apparently in the 17th century they could also make restrictions as to the use of the shore by the general public, much in the same way as the military authorities have done in 1914-17, at least so one would gather from this presentment made by the Mundesley jury on 18th March, 1633. "Imprimis we do punish Willm fferman for going below the cliff at unlawfull oures and is no servant. We do amercy him *viij.* and payen him *vs.* to do no more so."

Courts held at 8
a.m.

When we turn to the details connected with the holding of the manor Courts we find that these 17th century rolls contribute not a little information. For example, we learn that they were "holden" at the early hour of 8 a.m. The usual place of meeting was Gimmingham Hall, as the Manor House was then called, except that the South Repps and Sidestrand tenants occasionally were summoned to a Court held at South Repps.

Abuse in Court

Now and again those who assembled at the courts fell to quarrelling amongst themselves, like "Thomas Purdy of Southreppes [who] being in the corte & leete hath Abused the Corte in giving the ly unto Robt Worts of the same towne," for which piece of temper the Quest at Large for 1634 fined him half a crown! But a much more curious offence against the court is enrolled a few years earlier, in 1614, when Edmund Barret of Antingham, bond tenant of Gimmingham, is fined 12d. "for y^t he spake scandalously . . . of certen Rolls of the said mannor made in H ye 8," [Henry VIII.]. *Contempt of court roll* is certainly an unusual crime!

Contempt of
Court Roll.

I am afraid that rough words were not the only weapons used by the men of the Soke when they were

angry, and there are occasionally such cases of assault as the following, dated 1640.

Assault.

"The Trunch jury sworne for the Leete . . . doe finde uppon the informacon of Edward Claydon our fellow juror thát Nicholas Helseden of Trunch . . . did violently beate and drew forth the blood of the said Edward at the house of Lawrence Bugdane uppon fryday fortnight last past."

Citations in
foreign courts.

As time went on there was an increasing tendency to settle disputes in courts outside the Soke, although the manorial courts continued to uphold their ancient rights to decide local suits. In the verdicts of Gimingham jury in 1614 we find several typical cases of the citation of tenants in a foreign court. (29 April). "We doe also p^rsent Stephen Ball of Worstead for calling Richard fflight of Southrepps out of the Soken to the Consistory Cort of Norw^{ch} contrary to the custome of the mannor of Gimingham, we doe amcy him therefore xs. & to doe no more so upon payne of vli." Stephen Ball and Miles Ball are also presented for a similar offence against John Hylbye. (Aug.). "We amercy Willm vjd. Helsden ye elder for y^t contrary to the Custom he Dyd punyshe ffrancis Watlyn of Bradfild at the shreus [shrieve's, sheriff's] torne for matters here at this courte to be punysshed. We payne him no more so to doe upon the payne of 40s."

Distraint by
Bailiff of
Tunstead.

Occasionally the officers of adjoining jurisdictions trespassed into the liberty of the Soke of Gimingham in the discharge of their duties, and in this same year of 1614, George Woorstye, the bailiff for Tunstead Hundred, gets fined 3s. 4d. [or 40s. for a second offence] "ffor that he being balyve in Tunstede hundred did distraine the goods of Henrye ffermerie in Edingthorpe wthin the libties of the Soken for to answer in the hundred Court," while Isaacke Hardingham, another "baly" for Tunstead Hundred, is amerced the same amount for distraining A. Woodhouse.

The strange
story of William
Leech.

Perhaps of all the 17th century cases which were brought before the Courts of Gimingham none is so strange as the tale of Wiliam Leech, of Paston. The Leeches were a well established yeoman family of Paston, who in the 17th century had come to describe themselves as gentlemen, and who eventually gave their name

to the manor of Paston-Leeches. They were people of property and tenants of Gimingham, and in the year 1631, the head of the family seems to have been a roving spirit, one William Leech, who had married a wife, Suzanna. During one of his prolonged wanderings from home this lady appears to have got tired of waiting for her absent husband, and so she takes steps to prove his death by drowning, so that she may enter upon the possession of his lands and the pleasures of a second marriage! She secured three witnesses to prove his death, who testify as follows:—

[1 April, 1631].

“Whereas we Humfry Alban of London gent, Anthonie Vaughan of the City of Westminster Chrugion, and Christopher Britton of the Parish of Stebinheath [Stepney] in the County of Midd Maryner, are requested by divers of the ffreinds of Willyam Leech a Norfolk gent, deceased, who had served long in the Wårres in fforraigne Countrys, to testifie oʀ knowledge upon oʀ oathes touching the death of the said Willyam Leech to the end that Suzanna his late wife may prepare herself in marriage if a Convenyent Match be offered unto her wthout offence eyther to God or the Law of this land: Wee therefore the said Humfry Alban, Anthony Vaughan and Christopher Bretton say upon oʀ oathes that we well know the said Willyam [Leech] that he was in Novembr last [year] embarqued in Holland in a new Shipp called the Three Kings of Amsterdam for Venyce. And that in the later end of the said month of November last the said Ship was cast away upon Goodwin Sands nere England, And that the said Willyam Leech was then in the Shipp and was drowned, And theis depon^t [deponents] therefore make oath That they were all of them ther present in a Shipp called the Horne and saw the said Ship called the three Kings and one other Ship also, and all the men in both Ships pʼish^d [perished] upon the said Sands; And that the said Ship called the Horne in w^{ch} these depon^t then were, did also afterwards pish [perish] upon the said sands, and all the men in it, save only theis Three depon^t and Seaven and twenty more w^{ch} by Gods mercy were preserved, And I the said Humfry Alban do further make oath that I well knew the said Willyam Leech for six yeares since or therabouts when he was Lieutenant to Captayne Will-

AN EAST ANGLIAN SOKE.

yam Gibbes in the Regiment of S^r Richard Grenivyll Colonell in the servyce of the Islande of Reeo [Rio], and I the said Anthony Vaughan do make oath That I well know the said Willyam Leech in England and have administered Phisicke unto him."

(Signed)

Anthon Vaughan 27 May, 1631.

Humfrie Alban 7 June, 1631.

Witnessed by John Page.

This interesting proof of the death of a tenant was exhibited to the Homage of Paston and Edingthorpe at a Court held at Gimingham by Mr. Robert Bulleyn, the Steward, on 11 October, with the result that they found "that Willm Leech is dead as by this within writinge doeth appeare & affermed to be true [be a true] Coppie by othe of Thomas Parmiter gen." For the moment the widow Leech had gained her end and presumably proceeded to prove his will, and take both his inheritance and a second husband, one William Williams, but unfortunately for her more evidence was forthcoming which not only showed that the testimony of her three witnesses was a pack of lies, but also revealed the unpleasant fact that William Leech had signed a later document cancelling all earlier wills, and that he had disposed of all his property upon a lease of ninety-nine years to a certain John Arscott, of Annry in Devonshire! This fresh evidence is produced by Thomas Parmiter or Parmenter, who had signed the earlier document. He was no doubt one of the Parmenters of the neighbouring village of Witton,¹⁴ but why he was connected with this case does not appear. This new development of the case was presented to the manor jury on 21 August, 1632, and was recorded by them as follows:—

"We also fynd upon the othe of Tho Parmenter gent that Willi Leach late of Paston gent about two years after the date of the will late showed in this court by Willi Williams and Susan his then p^rtended wyfe, the said Willi Leach [four words erased, but evidently crossed out in error], made a revocation in wrightinge under his

14. Thomas Parmenter, of Witton, d. 1631, "apparently some connection of the Paston Family" and was probably father of Thomas Parmenter, who was living in 1645, and was doubtless the Parmenter of the above evidence. See Rye, *Norf. Fam.*, p. 644.

hand and seale of all wills noncupative and written wills. And the said Tho upon his othe doth further informe that wheras a Coppy of an othe is recorded in Court upon the testimony of two witnesses that the said Willi Leach was drowned at Sea beinge Shipped for Venice in a ship of Amsterdam called the three Kings, the said Tho: hath had credible information from the venetian Imbasador by an interpreter that their was noe such ship nor man went out of Holland for venice as the said othe p^rtendeth. And the said Tho: upon his othe doth saye that he hath sene a lease under the hand and seale of the said Willi Leach of all [two words torn, but probably "his lands"] both fre and copyhold lyinge in Paston, which lease was in writinge in parchment under his hand and seale and testified by witnesses han[ds] [tear, . . . probably "to"] John Arscott of Annry in the County of Devon Esquire and his assignes for 99 yer."

(Signed) Tho: Parmenter."

The last part of Parmenter's evidence raises a new point, for if Leech had leased his copyhold lands without previous surrender into the hands of the lord, were they not legally forfeit to the lord? The Paston jury felt itself unable to cope with so strange and intricate a case, and merely endorsed it as follows. "We saye that whereas by the othe of Thomas Parmenter gent concerninge the Lease of Willm Leach lands as is wthin written whether it be afforfit of those lands or not we referr it to the Grante Jurye." (Signed Nicholas Taylor, Nicholas Beter, and, with marks, Willm Campling and Richard Claydon).

And there, alas, we must leave William Leech, his widow and his property, for a close search in the manor papers of subsequent years has revealed nothing further of their history and the judgment of the Grand Jury is nowhere recorded. But a chance entry in the Paston verdict in 1632 makes me wonder if William Leech did not prove himself to be alive after all, at any rate it shows that the manor law did not recognise his decease. "Paine lost of iijs. viij^d. for that Willm Lech let his backhouse decaye," so he is fined the double amercement of "vjs. viij^d." Well, dead or alive, I am afraid that Suzanna "his late wife," and now "the pretended wife" of William Williams, comes very badly out of the busi-

ness, and I only hope she got what she deserved—not a penny of Leech's estate but a prosecution for bigamy instead!

With this curious 17th century story the present chapter must close, and with it ends our survey of the manorial documents. Those of succeeding centuries are only faint echoes of the older ones, they become less and less interesting until at last the manor courts cease to be held, the court rolls are no longer compiled, and to all practical intents and purposes the manor organisation has come to an end. Its jurisdiction still survives in the right to exact fines on the entry into or surrender of copyhold or on the death of the tenant, but that is all that remains of the liberties, franchises and territorial dominion of the lords of Gimingham-Lancaster. The Soke, however, continues to be within the sphere of the Duchy of Lancaster coroner, and its first ducal owner, John of Gaunt, is still commemorated by the "Duke's Head Inn" at Swafeld and by the name "John of Gaunt's House" which has been given to a small Tudor house in the parish of Gimingham, obviously built long after the death of "time honoured Lancaster"!

APPENDIX A.

MANORS WITHIN THE SOKE.

The capital manor of Gimingham included several smaller manors which may be dealt with very briefly. They all owed suit and service to the Soke, with the exception of Sydistron-Poynings, which seems to have had an absolutely separate existence.

The tendency of these smaller manors was to get merged in the capital manor and at the present day the majority of them have to all intents and purposes ceased to exist, although the manor of Gimingham-Lancaster is still of some importance.

Manor of Col-
mans in Gim-
ingham and
Trunch.

In Gimingham and Trunch there was the small manor of Colmans held by the Browning family in the 15th and early 16th centuries, and passing from them by marriage to the family of Worts. On the death of William Worts, of Trunch, in 1694, without issue, it passed with his other property to his widow "Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Riches Browne of Fulmerston Esq^r., then 49 years of age, this procured her a 2d Husband Sr. Isaac Preston of Beeston, Knighted about that time, to whom and whose issue by his first wife she gave the Estate of the Worts, a convenient addition to the Estate of the Prestons which till that time had been very inconsiderable, but whether it was consistent with justice for the Widow to give the Worts Estate to those who were strangers in blood as well to her as to them she was shortly called to make answer, for she died the 24 Aug. 1698 one day less than 4 years after the decease of her first Husband.

The Manor of Colmans, always a small Manor, and long since become, as I believe, only the Scite of a Manor, coming as above mentioned into the family of the Prestons, is now (18th century) the Property of Jacob Preston of Beeston Esq^r. great grandson to Sr. Isaac."¹

1. Norris—*North Erpingham*, (Trunch).

Knapton.

In very early times there was a large Manor in Knapton independent of the Soke. Norris assumes that it was originally part of the lands of Roger Bigod, passing from the Bigod's to the family of Monchensy, and from them to the de Plays, who also held the de Warenne fee in Knapton, parcel of the Soke of Gimingham, and who thus became tenants-in-chief for part of Knapton and mesne tenants for the remainder.

It will be remembered that the de Plays family became extinct in the male line on the death of Sir John de Plays in 1389, his entire property passing to Margaret his daughter, wife of Sir John Howard. Their son, another Sir John Howard, died in his parents' lifetime but left a daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, who afterwards married John de Vere, earl of Oxford. The de Veres were stout Lancastrians, and both earl John and his son Aubrey were beheaded in 1461, and all their estates forfeited. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, received from Edward IV. a grant of the greater part of their property, "whose Feoffees by his order conveyed this Manor of Knapton and the Manor of Bendfield Bury in Essex in the year 1468 for the erecting a Chantery in the Chape of St. George at Windsor for a dayly Mass to be said therein."²

In the first year of Henry VII. the de Veres were restored to their estates, John de Vere's second son (also named John) becoming 13th earl of Oxford. He died without issue in 4 Henry VIII., when the property passed to his nephew John de Vere, 14th earl. He too died without issue in 1527, and his three sisters became his heirs. These were Elizabeth, wife of Sir Anthony Wingfield, of Letheringham, Suffolk, K.G., Dorothy, wife of John Nevil, Lord Latimer, and Ursula, wife of Edmund Knightley, esquire (who died without issue). Anne, countess dowager of Oxford, widow of the 14th earl, held the manor and advowson of Knapton as part of her dower and was still alive in 1557. After her death a moiety at any rate of the manor and living was held by the Wingfield's son, Sir Robert Wingfield. "Not long after which time a moiety of this manor & Advowson was sold to Mr. Tho: Green Gentleman, who from that time lived and at length died in this Town. He

2. Norris, *North Erpingham*, (Knapton).

seems to have been a Lawyer & an officer under the Bishop of Norwich. In the 8 Eliz. 1566 he was Lessee to the Bishop of Norwich of the Manor of Shipden als Cromer, & of the Manor of Thurgerton, & was then called Thos. Greene of Knapton Gent." He was also Steward of the Manor of Gimingham-Lancaster. "By his will . . . dated 24 Apr. 1586 but not proved till the 28 Febr. 1593 he directed to be buried in the Chancel of this Church by his Son Thomas. To Amy his wife he gave his Manor, Lands and Tenemts. in Knapton (except such as were settled upon his Son John Grene & except such as be otherwise appointed in this Will . . .) for the term of her Life & after her decease to his son John Grene in tail general," with remainder to his daughters "Anne Grene, Ursula wife of Augustine Lythorne Gent., Mary the wife of John Blowfield & Cecily the wife of Nicholas Robbes . . . To Mr. Justice Windham & to Mr. Dr. Windham to each of them a Ring of an Ounce of Gold." The will goes on to give the value of the manor of Knapton "late the Countess of Oxford's" as £40 per annum and other lands in Knapton worth £250 per annum and his manor of Bromholme worth £3 per annum etc: (Reg. Clerke, f. 380^a).³

Knapton-
Bromholmes.

Knapton-
Greenes.

This manor hereafter became known as Knapton-Greenes. It passed in due course to the family of his daughter, Mrs. Blofield, and in 13 Charles I. it was held by Thomas Blofield, Gent, who died on 7 February "seised of this manor and advowson, held of the Dutchy of Lancaster by knight's service."⁴ The Blofields held it for two more generations and then William Blofield sold it to Bernard Hale, master of Peter House, Cambridge, Doctor of Divinity and "son of William Hale of King's Walden in Hertfordshire, Esq."⁵ He lived at Knapton as lord of the manor and on his death in 1663 bequeathed his manor and advowson to St. Peter's College, who still remain alternate patrons of the living. In 1740 John Fowle, esq^r. of Brome, auditor of the Excise, held a lease of it from the College and presented to the Church.

Knapton-Cecils.

Meanwhile another moiety of the manor had gone to Lord Latimer's daughter Dorothy, wife of William Cecil,

3. Norris, *North Erpingham*, (Knapton).

4. Le Neve, *N. Erp.*, 112.

5. *Ibid.*

lord Burleigh and earl of Exeter, from whose surname it became known as Knapton-Cecil. It was probably this moiety which was held by a Mr. Thomas Buckworth in 1626, and who presented one rector to the Church

Mundesley.
Spriggy's
Manor.

In Mundesley Spriggys Manor retained its separate existence for several centuries and was held for many years by the Paston family.

North Repps.

I have been unable to trace the history of the manor in North Repps, which in the reign of Henry VI. was granted to the Heydons of Baconsthorpe. John Heydon possessed it as a member of the Manor of Gimingham in 20 Edward IV. and Christopher Heydon in 35 Henry VIII. conveyed it (with a manor and land in Metton, land in South Repps, Sidestrand, Trimmingham, etc: 10 messuages and 200 acres of land etc: and £10 in rent) to Robert Rugge, alderman of Norwich, son of William Rugge, gent. of North Repps, and brother of William Rugge, Bishop of Norwich. This manor was called "North Repps Hall" in the will of Robert Rugge in 1559 (*q.v.*). Apparently it held independent manor courts, one roll of which still remains in the British Museum, and which is printed in this appendix. At the present day this manor seems to have become extinct.

Manor of North
Repps Hall.

South Repps.

The principal manor in South Repps was originally held in socage by the de Reppes family as parcel of the Soke of Gimingham. Its history is linked up with the fortunes of that family, and through them it came in the 16th century to James Hartstonge, second husband of Margaret de Reppes. From them it descended to Sir Standish Hartstonge, of South Repps, baronet of Ireland, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer *tempus* Charles II.

The De Reppes
Manor.

Brusyard's
Manor.

We have already given particulars of the small manor in South Repps which was held by the Abbess and Convent of Brusyard. The original grant was made in or before 51 Edward III. Le Neve tells us that Sir Simon de Felbrigge, K.G., at his death in 1442 possessed a manor in South Repps "appointing 13s. 4d. to Anne his daughter, a nun at Brusyard in Suff., to be paid thereout during her life."⁶ I have no other evidence that Sir Simon de Felbrigge ever held a manor here, but possibly

6. *N. Erp.*, pp. 155-6.

he had a lease of Brusyard's manor, and the fact that his daughter was a nun there shows that he had some connection with that Convent.

It was Brusyard's manor which belonged to Sir Nicholas Hare, knight in 30 Henry VIII.⁷

In 36 Henry VIII. a fine was made between Sir John Gresham, knight, *querent*, and Sir Nicholas Hare, knight, and Katharine, his wife, *deforciant*s, of the manor of South Reppes, 12 messuages, 300 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 100 acres of bruery and 40s. of rent in South Reppes, North Reppes, Cromer, Thorpe Market and Systrond.⁸

The Greshams had evidently become connected with South Repps in the early 16th Century, and Thomas Gresham was rector there from 1515 to 1558. They held land in Thorpe Market, and in 36 Henry VIII. a decree was made that "the King's tenants of his manors of Gymingham, Antingham, Thorpe, Bradfield, Trunch and South Repps adjoining the common, should have their accustomed right in the commons between the said towns, and that Sir John Gresham and his tenants of Thorpe should have but 300 sheep on the common called Oldfield Heath."⁹

In 4 Elizabeth a fine was made between Sir John Lyon and others versus Edmund Gresham and others of the manor of Thorpe Market, Kydlams and Brusardes—the latter being of course this manor of Brusyard's.¹⁰

The history of the manor of Sydistron or Sidestrand Poynings is given at some length in Chapter V. of my "Records of a Norfolk Village." It was held in early times by the de Plays, of Knapton, and from the reign of Henry III. onwards by the de Poynings, from which family it took its name. Subsequently the Atte Wodes, of Sidestrand, were lessees of the manor from about 1391 to 1477. On the death of Sir Edward Poynings in 1522 his estates went in the female line to Henry Percy, fifth earl of Northumberland, who sold Sydistron-Poynings to Robert Ratcliffe, Viscount FitzWalter and afterwards earl of Sussex. In 1594 part, at any rate, of this manor

7. *Ibid.*, p. 142.

8. *Feet of Fines*, printed in *N. Erp.*, pp. 136 and 560.

9. Blomefield, VIII., p. 175.

10. *Feet of Fines*, printed in *N. Erp.*, p. 562.

was leased for twenty-one years to Thomas Kempe, at a rent of £13 14s. od. In 1597-8 the earl of Sussex sold the manor for £60 to Henry Sandes, clerk, who re-sold it in 1620 "with view of frank pledge and wreck of sea" for £200 to Hugh Evance. Afterwards the family of Doods acquired the manor which was held by them until 1682 when it was sold to William Reymes (of the family of Reymes of Overstrand) and William Newman, who retained it in their possession for twenty or thirty years. During the 18th century it passed successively to Roger Duncomb, gent., T. Thornbury, esq., and General Benjamin Carpenter, the latter acquiring the property in 1782. The General left two heiresses, one of whom was Frances, wife of Sir Henry Gough-Calthorpe, first baron Calthorpe, and through her the manor of Sydistron-Poynings came into the hands of the Calthorpe family. In 1807 the manor, with all the land and houses appertaining to it, was sold to Samuel Hoare, of Hampstead and Cromer, and the property is now held by his great-grandson, the present Sir Samuel Hoare, of Sidestrand Hall.

A mediety of the advowson has always been attached to this manor, and formerly it enjoyed the liberties of view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale and wreck of sea. This latter privilege was a source of constant friction between the lords of Sydistron-Poynings and the lords of Gimingham-Lancaster, for they both claimed wreckage in Sidestrand.

Sydistron-Poynings extends from Pons Yard (now lost in the sea but presumably on the Trimingham boundary) to Conyborrow or Connisburgh Hill, a fragment of which still remains on the cliff near the Overstrand Hotel, where a small strip of field is described as "Coney Borough" in the Tithe Map.

APPENDIX B.

NORTH REPPS COURT ROLL, 1581.

It appears that at one time the vill of North Repps held a manor court of its own, separate from that of Gimingham. One North Repps Court Roll survives in the British Museum, dated 1581. In the following century the manor of North Repps seems to have been merged again in that of Gimingham. The Court Roll in question is so short that I have thought it worth including in this appendix.

BRITISH MUSEUM. ADDITIONAL CHARTER, 9,390.

[ABSTRACT].

A.D. 1581.

NORTHEREPPS.

General court held there 8 October, 23 Elizabeth (A.D. 1581).

ESSOINS.¹

Jerome Cawston, of the common esoin for Robert Attewoode, gentleman, Thomas Keye for Robert Fayer.

FEALTY FOR A
FREE TENEMENT
MADE IN
COURT.

At this court came Edmund Empson and did fealty to the lord of this manor for seven acres of enclosed land in a certain enclosure called "Hookers Cloose" in Cromer, being held freely of this manor in socage by services and the yearly rent of 13½d., which the said Edmund Empson lately purchased of Alice Ozante (Orante?), widow, as was presented by the homage of the last court of this manor held here.

FINES FOR
LICENCE TO DEMISE
LANDS TO
FARM, 3S. 4D.

Robert Fayer, bond tenant of this manor, asks licence from the lord to let to farm all those lands and tenements which are bond (*q nativ*) and which he holds by copy, to a certain Jerome Corke, which he holds for seven years from Michaelmas last. The Lord grants licence for such demise and the said Robert Fayer pays a fine for the same.

1. Essoin, essoigne, assoign (from Lat. *essonium*), an excuse for one summoned to attend a Court baron, or to appear in answer to an action, "by reason of sickness and infirmity, or other just cause of absence."

2s. 3d. Of Thomas Allen, 3d., of Emma Braye, 3d., Thomas Lyttlewode, 3d., Alice Cutlacke, widow, 3d., Thomas Flight, 3d., George Ynglonde, 3d., John Hobbles, 3d., John Pyckeryn, 3d., and Robert Balye, 3d., free tenants of this manor, for default in making suit at this day, and are therefore amerced.

.....	Robert Attewode, gentleman,	}	Sworn.
	Robert Bateman,		
	Stephen Powle,		
	John Colbye,		
	Nicholas Bawchyn,		
	William Woorstede,		
	Robert Fayer,		
	Roger Marche,		
	Nicholas Cooke,		
	Robert Passe,		
	John Cawston,		
	Henry Graye.		
	Thomas Blowfelde,		
	Henry Playforde,		
	William Payne,		

Who say on oath:—

DEATH OF That William Dennys died after the last court,
 NATIVE TENANT, and before his death and out of court, according
 ISSUE, 3s. 4d. to the custom of the manor, surrendered to the
 lord, by the hands of Roger Marche, bond tenant
 of this manor, and in the presence of Stephen
 Powle and John Cutlacke, like tenants, all those his bond lands and
 tenements held by copy, to the behoof and use of his will.

ORDER TO DIS- And that the said William Dennys, by his said
 TRAIN TO PER- last will, gave to Elizabeth Dennys, his wife, and
 FORM FEALTY, her assigns, for the term of her life, all those
 RELIEF 5d. lands and tenements which he held freely of this
 manor, in socage, by services and the rent of 5d.
 yearly, and which the bailiff is ordered to distrain,
 so that she may appear at the next court and do fealty to the lord.

DITTO. RELIEF, And that Rowlande Ynglonde died after the last
 2s. 11½d. court, and before his death, by his will, gave to
 Cecily Ynglonde, his wife, and her assigns, for
 the term of her life, all those his lands and tene-
 ments which, by charter, he held freely of this manor in socage by
 services and the rent of 2s. 11½d. yearly. The Bailiff is ordered to
 distrain as above.

..... And that Edward Chapman, sold and aliened to John Colbye and his heirs, four acres and one rood of land held freely of this manor in socage by services and the rent of 10½d. yearly, lying at Herman's Thorne in Northreppes, for which the said John, in full court, did fealty to the lord.

..... And that John Baldyn (iij^d.) and John Bateman (iij^d.) unjustly made a way [*viam*] across the bond lands of this manor, in the tenure of Robert Bateman, lying and being in Tubberde's Croft in Southreppes. They are amerced 12d. each if they continue this way.

..... 3d. And that Richard Comfort, bond tenant of this manor, owes suit at this court.

OFFICE OF And that they elect the tenant of Ganes to perform
MOWER. the office of (mower) in the year to come.

Part III.

NAMES AND FAMILIES IN THE SOKE.

CHAPTER I.

FAMILY NAMES.

I had intended to include in this section of the book all the later Subsidy Rolls, Hearth Tax Roll, Poll Lists and Feet of Fines relating to Soke families. Unfortunately space does not allow me to print them in full, but extracts from them will be found in the following short accounts of local families. The lists in their entirety can be consulted in Mr. Walter Rye's "Materials for a History of the Hundred of North Erpingham."

A study of the Court Rolls reveals many curious Christian and Sur-names. For instance, Helwis and Jugga occur in the 15th century records, whilst at a later date the unusual woman's name of Wiborough is found on several occasions in the North Repps Registers, viz:—

- "1561. Wiborough the daughter of Willm. Worstead bapt.
xxix^o Feb.
1566. Wiborough the daughter of John Rinot bapt.
xj^o December.
1567. Wiborough the daughter of John Hall bapt.
xij October."

Ancient names seem to have survived to a very late date in the North Repps. Wiborough no doubt is a corruption of the Saxon Withburga, and fifty years later in the same place, we find the unusual northern man's Christian name of Vulfrand—Vulfrand or Wolfrand Riseborough occurring in the Court Roll for 1614.

In 1632, Mr. Francis Blofield, of Mundesley, had a maid-servant named Easter Howes, a type of Christian name still affected in Norfolk where at the present day I know of a woman named "Lenten March."

It would be impossible to make a list of all the strange surnames to be found in the manor records, of which perhaps Howseygoo, Pesacre, Pynchamour, and Poregolde are typical specimens. Of course there are many names of northern origin (the majority of

these being found in North Repps), such as Elwald, Gothemond, Forthewald, Tebald, Thurgard, Thurkeld and Thurstan. Dybald also occurs frequently, and in its modern form of Dyball it is still a very common surname in Norfolk.

In the 16th and 17th centuries a family named Oates was resident in North Repps, which, according to Mr. Rye, may be the stock from which came the notorious Titus Oates. This supposition is rather borne out by the fact that Timothy was a family name of the Oates of North Repps, for one naturally expects Timothy and Titus to be of the same race!

THE PASTONS AND THE SOKE.

Thanks to the famous Paston Letters the name and history of this Norfolk family is well-known throughout England, and I have no intention of giving here any long account of the family. I shall merely show in what manner they were connected with the Soke.

There seems to be no manner of doubt that the "unfriendly hand" was right in claiming that the Pastons were tenants of bond land in the Soke of Gimmingham. This anonymous writer throws scorn on the Paston's claim to a Norman descent, and gives their true origin in the following passage:—

"A remembrance of the worshipful kin and ancestry of Paston, born in Paston in Gemyngham Soken.

"First, there was one Clement Paston dwelling in Paston, and he was a good plain husband [husbandman], and lived upon his land that he had in Paston, and kept thereon a plough all times in the year, and sometimes in barleysell two ploughs. The said Clement yede [i.e., went] at one plough both winter and summer, and he rode to mill on the bare horse-back with his corn under him, and brought home meal again under him, and also drove his cart with divers corns to Wynterton to sell, as a good husband [man] ought to do. Also, he had in Paston a five score or a six score acres of land at the most, and much thereof bondland to Gemyngham Hall, with a little poor water-mill running by a little river there, as it appeareth there of old time. Other livelode nor manors had he none there, nor in none other place.

"And he wedded Geoffrey of Somerton (whose true name is Goneld)'s sister, which was a bondwoman, to whom it is not unknown (to the prior of Bromholm and Bakton also, as it is said) if that men will inquire."¹

1. *Paston Letters*. Gairdner's edition, 1910, p. XXV. Geoffrey de Somerton himself had certainly married the widow of a bondman, see p. 98.

Alan de Paston and Clement de Paston were parties to a plea, in the Gimingham Court Roll of 5 Richard II., and the Pastons were most certainly tenants of the Soke, as the Manor Documents prove, moreover, it seems fairly certain that as late as the reign of Henry V. some of the family were bondmen regardant to the Manor of Gimingham. It has been noted already that on 28th November in the 4th year of that king a warrant was issued to the feodary of Norfolk "to seize into the King's hands the goods and chattels of Robert Paston, deceased, a tenant regardant to the Manor of Gymyngham," and on the following 12th February a further warrant was issued to the same official causing him "to deliver to John Birston and Thomas Hakon possession of the goods of Robert Paston a nief tenant of the Manor of Gymyngham, which goods they had purchased for £10."² Possibly this Paston of Salthouse was the father of Robert Paston of Wiveton, whose will is given in Vol. III., p. 460, of the Paston Letters. The editor in a note says that he does not know how nearly Robert Paston was related to the family at Paston, but it seems likely that he was a kinsman.

The Paston Letters contain a good many allusions to Gimingham, Mundesley, Knapton and Trunch, and in the appendices are a few deeds relating to places in the Soke.³

In 1443 an exchange of land called "Charterhold" was effected between the King as Duke of Lancaster, and lord of Gimingham, and William Paston and others.

A.D. 1443, 17 Oct. [Abstract].

(From Chancery Roll of D. of L. 22 Hen. VI., Y. 2c., No. 79).

Land in Paston. Warrant to Sir Roger Frenles, Knight, Chief Steward of the Duchy lands in Norfolk and other countries, and Sir Thomas Tudenham, particular steward of the lordship and Manor of Gymyngham, to demise to the under tenants (bassis tenentibus) specified in an act of Parliament, certain charterhold land in Paston and Edithorp granted to the King by William Paston, Robert Clere, and Edmund Clere in exchange for certain parcels of Copyhold land, in accordance with an act of the last parliament holden at Westminster. The copyhold land granted to them consisted of $36\frac{1}{2}$ acres 9 perches $1\frac{1}{2}$ qr. of a perch and 1 pekke of land, pasture, heath and marsh, with two houses built on certain parcels thereof, with $\frac{1}{4}$ of a rood of waste land . . . in Paston; and it was given in recompense for $36\frac{1}{2}$ acres $26\frac{1}{2}$ perches and half a

² D. of L. Register XVII., part 2, fol. 53 and 56. Fol. 56 is printed by Mr. Walter Rye in *The East Anglian*, N.S., Vol. I., p. 5.

³ These are noted in the Appendix to this chapter.

quarter of a perch, half a "pekke" and one "naylle" of land, pasture and heath, called "Charterhold," with two houses built on certain parcels thereof, in Paston and Edithorp, which are to be annexed to the Duchy. These parcels are specified in an inquisition dated 18th May, 18 Hen. VI., remaining in the treasury of the Duchy, which was taken by virtue of letters of the Cardinal to Lord Bardolph and others.

17 Oct., 22 Hen. VI. (No. 963)."

From an Elizabethan document preserved in the Public Record Office we get further details of this transaction. It appears that a part of the Charterhold lands was regranted by the King for the benefit of the inhabitants of Paston. In 1590 the inhabitants complain to the Duchy Court through John Taylor, Thomas Calke, Richard Claydon and Robert Weosley, inhabitants, that Richard Leache and William Leache his son have obtained a fraudulent grant of four acres, "about 3 or 4 Phil. and Mary" being part of the Charterhold lands granted by Henry VI. to the inhabitants of Paston. The original grant is described as of "xxij^d. Henry VI. by act of Pliament, a gift or exchange between Henry VI. and Willm Paston Esquier then one of the justices of the said late king of his court of comen plees whereby the king did give to Willm Paston and to his heires 30 acres and an half nyne pches (perches) one quarter and half a prche and one pekke of lande pasture brueres and mishe (marsh) grounde called coppihold wth two mansion houses thereuppon edified pcell of the Manno^r. of Gymyngham, pcell of the Duchie [etc.], situate lyinge and beinge in Faston and Edingthorpe And the said Willm Paston did give unto the said king his heires [etc.] thirty six acres and an half twenty six perches and an half and half a quarter of one perch, half a pekke and one nayle of lande pasture and bruarye called Charterhold with two mansion houses thereuppon in the said parishes [etc.] and it was also ordeyned and enacted by the authority of Pliament that the king should enjoy the said land as part of the Duchy of Lancaster to be demised as copyhold of the Manor of Gymyngham—At the Courte of Gymyngham ther holden about Jan. 18th, 22 Henry VI., his then steward did grante unto Warrenn Kinge, John Horningtoft, John Arcall the elder, John Ball and John Marshall then inhabitants of Paston and their heirs, five severall peces of land pcell of the said pmisses called Charterhold, given unto the King, conteyning by estimacion 4 acres in Paston to holde by cobby of Courte Roll according to the custom of the manno^r. and he further granted to them upon trust for the benefit of the towne the yerely rentes issues and pfittes [profits] for the inhabitants." They go on to complain that when all the trustees were dead the lease of the land was fraudulently ac-

quired by Leache, and the complainants humbly pray the Duchy Court to restore to the inhabitants of Paston their ancient rights.⁴

Some time subsequent to the death of Judge Paston in 1444 his son, John Paston, addressed a petition to the king to grant him a charter confirming to him and to his heirs various lands, franchises and offices held by his late father, including twenty-three messuages, five hundred and thirty-four acres of land bruery and marsh, in Paston, Edingthorp and Bacton, Court Leet and view of frankpledge in the towns of Paston and Edingthorp, various rents in money and in kind, and the office of parker and custodian of the park of Gimingham, together with the agistment of beasts in the park there, provided always that sufficient pasture was left for the king's wild beasts; the value of the agistment being x marks a year. All these lands and liberties were to be held by the said John Paston by fealty and by the rent of one red rose at the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist.⁵

There are several letters which deal with disputes regarding the payment of rent to Gimingham. For instance, on 4th Feb., 1445, Agnes Paston writes to Edmund Paston:—

"And there is a man in Truntche, hyzht Palmer to, that hadde of youre fadre certein londe in Truntche over vij. yere or viij. yere agone for corn, and trewli hathe paide all the yers; & now he hath suffred the corne to ben sette for viijs. of rentte to Gymyngham, wich youre fadre paide nevere. Geffreie axid Palmere why the rentte was not axid in myn husband is tyme; & Palmer seyde, for he was a grete man, & a wyse man of the law, & that was the cawse men wolde not axe hym the rentte." (Letter No. 46).

On another occasion, 1st August, 1461, John Paston, in writing to Margaret Paston, adds "Also if ye can be any craft get a copy of the bille that Sir Miles Stapilton hath of the corte rolls of Gymyngham, that ye fayle not, but essay and do your devyr, for that shuld preve some men shamefully fals. Master Brackle seyde he shuld a get oon of Preston. I wold he shuld assay, or ellys peraventure Skypwith, or ellys Master Sloley: for if Stapilton were boren in hande that he shuld be founde fals and ontrewed, and first founder of that mater, he wold bothe shewe the bille and where he had it." (Letter No. 408).

It is difficult to follow the various small disputes, but for some while there was a good deal of quarrelling over a wall which Agnes Paston had erected in Paston (see Letters Nos. 160, 161, 162). An

4. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 167, T. 8.

5. *Paston Letters*, Vol. III., p. 421-2.

unfriendly neighbour, Waryn Herman, seems to have caused her to be amerced by the officials of Gimingham for the erection of this obstruction.

"Agnes P. to John (her son) A.D. 1461, 1 Dec. To John Paston, at London, to be delivered in hast. I grete you welle, and lete you wete that this day Berth'Elys of Paston come to Norwych to me, and shewet me a rental for the terme of Seynt Mich., the yer of Kyng H. vj. xxxix^o; and in the ende of the sayd rental, of Waryn Kynges hand is wretyn "Agnes Paston vij*d*. ob. [7½*d*.]. Item, the same Agnes for v. acre of lond xx*d*." Item, Aleyn, Bayfeld asketh the same rent for the yer past at Mich. Item, I have knowlech by a trew man that whan Sharpe the reseyvor was at Gemyngham last, Waryn Herman was dyvers dayes with hym, and put hym in mynde that the mercyment for makynge of the walle chuld be askyd ageyn and be distreynyd ther for Item, the seyde Berth 'Ellis seyth that the seyde reseyver wold not alowe the rent in Trunche nor the mercymments for my sute to the Curt. Gonnor wold suffyr no man to answer for me.

Be your moder, Agnes Paston." (Letter No. 426).

Again in a letter of Dec., 1461, from John Playter to John Paston, the older, mention is made of the "last cessyons Erpyngham hundred" and at the end—

"Item, Sir, please you to telle Mr. Clement, we have goten a reles of al maner accions and appelles of Margret Clerk, made to Gymmyngham, on of the pryncypalles, and that he woll inquire wheder it be suffycyant for alle, and send me word, and weder it dyvers fro trepas and dette, wher damages is to be recovered, for in this appell is no damages to be recovered, but only an execucion, whiche non of them may be contributory to other execucion as in other cases. Nevertheless, I hope it be sufficient for all, for sche is in the case to have the lyf in stede of damages." (Letter No. 430).

The Pastons played a very great part in the district and probably were benefactors of many of the magnificent Churches in and around the Soke of Gimingham. Clement Paston, who died in 1419, by a will dated in June (*Reg. Dioces. Norwic., Hyrning, f. 51. b.*), "Leaves his soul to God, St. Margaret, and all Saints; his body to be buried in the parish church of St. Margaret at Paston, between the north door and the tomb of his wife Beatrix.

"Legacies—(1) to the High Altar (sum not named); (2) To the vicar of Paston for tithes, etc., 3s. 4*d*.; (3) for the lights "Beatæ Margaretæ in cancella coram ymagine Beatæ Margaretæ, v*l*i. cer."; (4) "Item, luminibus super le Rodelofte ejusdem ecclesiæ,

xij*d.*”; (5) for the reparation, etc., of the Church, 3*s.* 4*d.*; (6) To the Vicar of Bakton (as above) 2*s.*; (7) for the repair etc. of *Trunch* Church, 8*d.*; (8) for the repair of *Moneslee* Church, 6*d.*; (9) “Item, Priori et Conventui de Bromholm, v*js.* viij*d.*” etc.

Witnesses :—“ Nich’o Priori de Bromholm, Rich. Jernemuth Monacho, Rich. Vicario Ecclesiæ de Paston prædicta, Johanne Kyng, capellano, Roberto Gynne, et aliis.”

Proved at Norwich, “2 Oct. An. Dom. Supradicto.” (No. 983).

As the Pastons rose to fame they intermarried with the knightly families of the county, and in c. 1458 they allied themselves to the Poynings of Sidestrand, Hockwold and Wilton, through the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Paston, to Robert Poynings.⁶

At the height of their prosperity the Pastons held a very large number of Norfolk manors and there are no less than thirty-nine enumerated in a list dated 1477. Of these Paston, Latymers, Trunche, Spriggeis (Mundesley) and Knapton were wholly or in part within the Soke of Gimmingham. The first part of the document deals with the manors in the Paston district and begins as follows :—

1477, 22 Aug.

“The names of the maners of Agnes Paston and William Paston, in Norfolk, how thai shuld be taken hede to this harvest, anno xvij^o.

“And a copy of the same send to Richard Lynstede, the xxij day of August, anno xvij^o, per Bachelor Water.

Pastons Maner, Se that the fermour in his corne on my moders fe. Seale dores and distrayne and put in a newe fermour.

Wodemyl, Distrayne.

Latymers, Gadir the rente.

Sewardbys, Gadir the rente.

Trunche, Distrayne on the grounde after it is fellid, while it beth on my moders fe.

Spriggis⁷, Gader the rente.

Knapton fe⁸,

Crowmer, Gadir the rente.

6. See *Records of a Norfolk Village*, p. 63, et seq.

7. In an undated deed of a grant of land from Radulphi Diaconi de Paston to Robt. son of Wistan of Paston, one of the witnesses was Will. Espryggy, others were Richard de Trunch, Ralph, Roger and John de Reppes.

8. See Appendix to this chapter.

Owstoonde, Distrayne.

Rowton, Distrayne, and arest the fermour," etc.
(Letter No. 805).

In conclusion, it may be noted that the notorious John Wortes⁹, alias Paston, one of William Paston's three bitter enemies, was almost certainly a member of the family of Wortes of Knapton and Trunch. It will be remembered that John Wortes was originally a monk at Bromholm, who was prosecuted by the prior as an apostate to his order. William Paston was counsel for the prosecution and this was the beginning of all the trouble, for Wortes made off to Rome, contrary to the Statute of Provisors, where he won his action and caused William Paston to be fined £205. Paston contested the validity of this sentence, but only brought upon himself the additional penalty of excommunication! Wortes meanwhile called himself John *Paston* and *Prior of Bromholm*. The quarrel was fortunately brought to an end by his procuring for himself the bishopric of Cork, 23rd May, 1425. Although it is doubtful if he ever took charge of the See, the appointment had the effect of bringing the Bromholm controversy to an end.

In a letter dated 5 Nov., 1425, William Paston writes to an unknown correspondent:—

"Right worthy and worshepefull Sir, I recommaunde me to yow, and thank yow for the good, trew and diligent labour ye have hadde for the matier between the Priour of Bromholme and his commoigne apostata, Johne Wortes, that namythe hym self Paston, and affermith hym untrewely to be my cousyn. [I have many pouere men of my kyn, but so fals, and so pouere,—but he was nevere of my kyn].¹⁰ God defende that any of my saide kyn shuld be of swyche governaunce as he is of! Maister John Ixworthe told me that he had lettres fro a frende of yowres in the courtt of Rome, that is of the seyd prioures counseill in this mater as ye be, whos name I knowe nought, specifyng that the seyd John Wortes adversarius prioris desperat in causa et concordiam quaerit. It is told me sithen that the seyd John Wortes is in the cite of Rome, sacred a bysshop of Irland, videlicet Corcagensis, whereby it is seyd here that his pretense of his title to the priourie of Bromholme is adnulled, and voide in your lawe." [etc.]. (Letter No. 5).

Paston writes on the same matter on March 1st to William Worsted:—

"I prey the Holy Trinite, lord of your cherche and of alle the world, delyvere me of my iij adversaries, of this cursed bysshop of

9. See Paston Letters, 5, 6, 7, 960 and Introduction, p. xl.

10. "These words occur in the draft, but have been crossed out."

Bromholm, Aslak for Sprouston, and Julian Herberd for Thornham. I have nought trespassed ageyn noon of these iij, God knowing, and yet I am foule and noysyngly vexed with hem, to my gret unease, and al for my lordes and frendes matieres, and nought for myn owyn." (Letter No. 7). Wortes was eventually prosecuted under the Statute of Provisors, as we learn from a Bodleian MS. dated 1 Dec., 1426, which consists of a Draft writ to the Sheriff of Norwich to attach and bring before the Council John Paston alias Wortes and others for violation of the statutes of Provisors 25 Edw. III. & 16 Ric. II., on the complaint of John Brundale, prior of Bromholm, that although he, Brundale, was canonically elected prior, the said Paston or Wortes had crossed the sea without royal license, obtained a provision of the said priory in the Court of Rome, and got himself installed as prior, and the other expelled. Also the said John Paston or Wortes, and John Gees, a Carmelite friar of Norwich, Edmund Alderford, late of Norwich, clerk, Barth. Waryn, parson of Trunche, William Cuttyng of Worsted, clerk, John Gees of Crowemer, merchant, and Ralph Gunton of Norwich, scrivener, received the said instruments at Bakton and put them into execution—Dated 1 Dec.

ii. On the back of the preceding is another draft writ of the same date endeavouring to draw the prior out of the Kingdom by a suit in the Ct. of Rome." (No. 960).

There was formerly a brass in Trimingham Church to William Paston. This is now lost but fortunately the inscription was copied by Miss Fry in May, 1851.

"Orate p' ain' Will'i Paston hij filiu' Will'i Paston
milit' cui' ait' p' p'ietr. deo Amen."''

No date is given, but doubtless the William Paston in question was the son of Sir William Paston who occurs frequently in the Henry VIII. Court Rolls of Gimmingham.

These later Rolls contain sundry allusions to the Pastons, of which the following examples are typical:—

21 Henry VIII.

Sir William Paston, knight, alienated to James Attwode 11a. 11. of land "selond and hethe" lying in Sydestrond without license. He does not come therefore it is to be seized. Sir William Paston did not cleanse "le bek" leading from Mondysley to Gemyngham.

Respite of suit of court paid by Sir William Paston, Knight, for his lands in Paston and Trunch.

11. Printed on p. 392 of *N. Exp.*, where the reference is given to "Miss Fry's collections, p. 163."

1613.

" Mr. Ed. Pastons Warrt (warrant) for a wigner deputed. Mr. Bullen whereas I am chosen Wickner for the towne of Paston I have for the execution of the sayd office appoynted Thomas Kelinge (? Relinge) of Paston to be my deputye And thus wth. my harty Comt^s. I commytt yo^w to God.

Paston hall this 20th of December, 1613.

Yor Lovinge ffrind
Edmunde Paston."

1632 [April].

The Paston jury "finde the payne of iijs. iiij^d. is lost for that the tenement that S^r. Edmund Paston knight bought of Richard Harmer is not repa[ired] accordinge to the last p^r sentment at Michallmas gen'all and we command him to repayre the same before Michallmas next upon paine of vjs. viij^d."

Death of
Sir
Edmund. 1632. [21 August.]

"Imprimis we (the Paston jury) finde that S^r Edmund Paston knight and Dame Katheringe his wife being Coppihold tenants and that the sayd Dame Katheringe dyed manye yeres since and that since the last court generall the sayd S^r Edmund Paston dyed seased and that M^r. Willm Paston esquire and Mr. Thomas Paston his sunnes are next heyres and Mr. Willm Paston of full age and Mr. Thomas Paston wthin age and about the age of xvij yeares but the quantity [of land] we know not."

1650.

Rent "of the free lands of S^r Willm Paston Baron^t. vij^d."

GENTLE AND YEOMAN FAMILIES.

ALEYN, ALLEN. This family has been connected with Gimingham, Mundesley and the neighbourhood from the very earliest times down to the present day.

William Aleyn occurs in the Ministers' Accounts for 1391-2 in Mundesley and as having a share in the lease of "Trymyngham-lound" for five years. At the same period Ralph Aleyn occurs in Gimingham and Trunch.

Robert Aleyn was a tenant of the manor in the Rental of 2 Richard III., and also occurs in the Court Roll in 1496. In the same year William Allen, son of Simon Allen, occurs in Mundesley, and in the following year Nicholas Allen is a juror in that place.

Every subsequent Court Roll and Subsidy Roll contains references to the family, and the history of the attempted manumission

of certain members of it in the reign of Elizabeth has been recorded already.

John Allen, *gent.*, was Steward of the Manor in 1649.

ATTE WODE, of Sidestrand and elsewhere.

A great many Atte Wodes occur in the Court Rolls, etc., from 1382 onwards, when John, son of John Atte Wode, figures as one of those who had been malefactors in the lord's corn during the 1381 Rising. The first member of the family whom I have come across is Martin Atte Wode, of Thorpe Market, who in 1317 acquired by fine from Henry de Sidestronde "one messuage, forty acres of land, one acre of pasture, three acres of heath, eight shillings rent, with appurtenances in Sidestronde, Gymyngham, Trymyngham, Northreppes, Suthreppes and Haneworth."¹²

From that date until 1606-7 the family held land in Sidestrand. They must have been the tenants of the Manor of Sidestrand-Poynings, in right of which they were patrons of a mediety of the advowson, to which they made the following appointments.

1391. John Merigo (in mediety with St. Peter, Southgate), Patron, John Attewode.

1399. Hugh Germnon (half). Patron, James Atte Wode, of *Sydestrond*.

1401. Thomas Hylbrond (half) Patron, Ditto.

1402. Bartholomew Benet (half, with Thorp Market) Patron, Ditto.

1404. Clement Albon (half). Patron, Ditto.

1439. James Wynter (half). Patron, William atte Wode, of *Sydestrond*.

1442. John Burton (half). Patron, Ditto.

1477. Edmond Pylgryme. Patron, John Attewode, *gentleman*.

John atte Wode's name occurs frequently in the Gimmingham Court Rolls and Ministers' Accounts and he may possibly have been the *Sir* John Atte Wode who is mentioned several times in "John of Gaunt's Register, 1372-1376," as keeper or constable of the Castle of Tickhill, Yorkshire.

John atte Wode held land in Antingham, Felmingham, Suffield and North Walsham, in 2 Richard II., and in 14 Richard II., John atte Wode of *Cistronde* was a party to a fine dealing with the manor and advowson of Sprouston. In 18-19 Richard II. John atte Wode *senior* is a landholder in *Eccles juxta mare*. Meanwhile in the

¹². *Feet of Fines*, Norfolk. Trinity, 10-11 Ed. II., Case 163, File 135, No. 611.

Gimingham Court Roll for 1397 we find John atte Wode, *the younger*, surrendering one acre of heath in North Repps.

In 1401 James Attwood was one of the collectors of the Aid of 3 Henry IV. for the Hundred of North Erpingham.

William atte Wode, patron of the living of Sidestrand in 1439 and 1442, is commemorated in Sidestrand Church by an equal-armed cross of very unusual design, which has been called the "Sidestrand Cross." It bears the inscription

"Orate p' aia' Willi Atte wod."

John Wode, or atte Wode, *gentleman*, occurs in the Court Rolls in 1493, 1497, and 1499. In 1511-12 William Atwoode was farmer of the rabbit warren of Gimingham at a rent of 40s.

In the Subsidy Roll of 1523 Jamys Atwoode contributed £8 and 4s. in Sidestrand, and in 1546 Cicely Atwood, *wyd* paid 3s. 4d. Subsidy "for goods."

In 37 Henry VIII., and 35 Elizabeth, John Atwood paid Subsidy in South Repps, and after that date Robert Atwood, *gentleman*, contributed. Robert Attewode, *gentleman*, occurs in the North Repps Court Roll for 1581.

In 4 James I., John Attewood, *gentlemen*, parted with the Sidestrand property, and in 13 James I. Robert Primrose acquired from him land in South Repps.

Members of the family also occur in the Subsidy Rolls for Gresham, Knapton, Overstrand and Thurgarton in the reign of Edward III., and at later dates in Gresham, and South Repps. The last of the name whom I have found in North Erpingham Hundred is Katharine Attwoode, *widow*, who paid xxs. and iijs. Subsidy in Gresham in 4 Charles I.¹³

There was also a family of Atwood living in Norwich from Edward III. onwards (they were later on of Yarmouth), of whom I have given particulars in "Records of a Norfolk Village." This family in the early 18th century bore arms:—"The field replenished with acorns, a lion rampant on an escutcheon of pretence, three cross crosslet fitchee. Crest: A peacock proper."¹⁴ "John Attwood of Norwich disclaimed arms in 1664."¹⁵

BARTRAM, a Subsidy-paying family of Trimingham, North Repps and elsewhere.

13. For fuller particulars see *N. Erp. Subsidy Lists*, etc., and *Records of a Norfolk Village*, pp. 70-77, and 111-114.

14. *East Anglian*, II., p. 270.

15. *Norfolk Families*, p. 11.

BATEMAN, a yeoman family resident at South Repps. Robert Bateman was on the South Repps jury in 1493. Richard and Nicholas Bateman paid Subsidy there in 37 Henry VIII., 3 and 5 Edward VI. and 35 Elizabeth. Nicholas left three sons, Richard, Robert and John, joint heirs "accordinge to the custome of gavell kynde." Robert Bateman,¹⁶ senior and junior, were contributors in 35 Elizabeth. In the same year Agnes Bateman, widow, and John Bateman also paid Subsidy in South Repps. The latter also contributed in 18 and 21 James I., and 4 Charles I.

Nicholas Bateman paid in 18 James I.

William Bateman paid in 4 Charles I. and 14 and 15 Charles II., and Robert Bateman in 15 Charles II.

In the Hearth Tax Roll, 24 Charles II., George Bateman occurs in Thorpe Market.

BAWCHIN, BAUCHIN, etc. This name occurs in the Court Rolls of the 15th century and onwards. The family seems to have been resident at Sidestrand and the Parish Registers contain many entries relating to them between the years 1558 and 1732.¹⁷ They were then in humble circumstances, though their name comes no doubt from the Norman Bauchun, which is perpetuated by the Bauchun Chapel in Norwich Cathedral.

BLOFELD, BLOFIELD, BLOWFIELD, etc., of Cromer, South Repps, Knapton, Beeston Regis, Sustead, etc.

John and Thomas Blofeld were bond tenants of Gimingham in 2 Richard III., and the name occurs constantly in the Court Rolls, and 16th century Duchy of Lancaster suits. The Blofields intermarried with several local families. Thomas Blofelld paid Subsidy in North Repps in 14 Henry VIII., Agnes Blowfeld in South Repps in 37 Henry VIII., John Blowfeld in Trimmingham in 3 and 5 Edward VI., Thomas and John Blowfeilde in South Repps in 35 and 39 Elizabeth, and Robert Blofeild in South Repps in 4 Charles I.

There are two brasses commemorating Blofields of this period in South Repps Church.

(1) "Here lyeth buried y^e. body of Richard Blofeld who dyed the viij day of May A^o. Dni 1598."

(2) "Here lyeth the bodye of Thomas Blofeld whoe departed this worlde the 31 Day of December Ano. Dni. 1608."

16. For the misdeeds of Robert Bateman, wickner of South Repps, in 1589, see Part II., Chapter III.

17. All the references are given in full in *Records of a Norfolk Village*.

In 16 James I. and 13 Charles I. Thomas Blofeild, *gent.*, held the manor of Knapton-Cecils, with the advowson of Knapton Church and land in Gimingham, Knapton, Mundesley, Trunch, Antingham, Swafeld, and Edingthorpe. At the Inquisition Post Mortem, dated 5 October, 13 Charles I., it was found that he held the manor of Beeston Regis.

It has been noted above that Robert Blofield paid Subsidy in South Repps in 4 Charles I., he was also a party to fines dealing with land there in 13 and 16 James I. The Blofield property in Knapton, with the manor and advowson, was finally sold by William Blofield to Dr. Bernard Hale, of Peter House.

BOLT, of Trunch and South Repps. This family was of some importance in Trunch and occurs frequently in documents relating to the Soke. Robert Bolt, of Trunch, is returned, in the Subsidy Roll of 1523, as worth over £40.¹⁸

The will of William Bolt, *the elder*, of Trunch, was proved in London in 1547. (F.33 Coode).

The Bolts possibly were descended from "One Bolt, a worsted merchant," who left a fortune, and in 1481 "was recommended as an eligible match for one of the Pastons!"¹⁸

BRADFIELD. A family of this name was resident in the Soke from very early times.

Thomas de Bradfeld paid Subsidy in Gimingham in 6 Edward III., and the Court Rolls, Subsidy Rolls and Duchy of Lancaster suits contain many references to the family.

In 14 Henry VIII. Robert Bradfyld paid Subsidy in Knapton, and in the same year John and Martyn Bradfeld contributed in Trunch.

William Bradfeld paid in Mundesley in 37 Henry VIII. and 3 Edward VI.

Richard Bradfield, *sen.*, paid in South Repps in 35 and 39 Eliz., and Faith Bradfeilde in Trunch in the latter year.

Thomas Bradfilde paid in Mundesley in 39 Eliz., 18 and 21 James I. and 4 Charles II.

Edward Bradfield, *gent.*, held a manor in Mundesley and paid Subsidy there in 15 Charles II.

BROWNINGE, of Gimingham, Trunch, etc. Many references to this family are to be found in the Court Rolls. They were probably of the lesser gentry and were occasionally officials

18. *Norfolk Families*, p. 63.

of the manor. William Browning "was a considerable landowner" in Trunch, and in his Will, dated and proved in 1486, "gave to the fabric of this Church 40s. over and above 13d. 4d. which he had given before." (Reg. Normane, f. 13b. Norris, *North Erpingham*). Thomas Browning was on the Free and Trunch Juries in 1493 and 1499 and was "messor of the lordship," 1496. In the beginning of the 16th century Robert Browning of Trunch held a manor in Trunch, in right of his wife Dorothy, sister and heir of William Trusbut. She made a Will in 1558, proved 1559, as widow of Robert Browninge, and in it she bequeathed "all her manors, messuages, lands, tenements, etc., in Gemingham, Trunch and Tremingham" to her son Thomas Browninge, £10 her daughter Margery Betts, and £10 to her daughter Dorothy on reaching the age of 21." (Reg. Moundeford, f. 22b, Norris). Thomas Browning married his cousin Cicely, daughter of Thomas Worts, of Trunch. "By his Will dated 9 May, 1572, and proved 29 July following, "he directs" to be buried in the Church of Trunch by the Font, about the place where Walter Browninge was buried." He leaves "to Richard Browninge his son £10 at 20 years of age. To Dorothy Browninge his (the Testator's) sister 5 marcs. To Robert Browninge his son his messuage where he then lived, with all the lands etc: thereunto belonging in Trunch and elsewhere in Norfolk which lately descended to him by right of Inheritance from his Father Robert Browninge late deceased. To Thomas Browninge his son his manor called Colmans in Trunch with the members and appurtenances thereto belonging; also diverse other messuages and lands in Gyvingham and Trunch, some of which he late bought of John Alen" etc.; Cicely his wife is made "sole executrix and guardian to his children, and his two brothers-in-law Robt. Wurts and John Wurts, supervisors. Witness, Thomas Browninge Senr. and others. Reg. Annison f. 338^a. (Norris).

"Dorothy his daughter died unmarried." In her Will, dated and proved 1583, she gives legacies to Robert, Thomas and Richard, her brothers, and makes her mother sole executrix. (Reg. Sherwood, f. 141b, Norris).

"Cecily the widow of Thomas was still living and a legatee in the Will of her brother Robt. Worts, dated 1587, and this is the last mention I have found of the Family or of the Manor of Colmans until it occurs again [as] part of the Estate of Robt. Woorts of Trunch, in 1632" (Norris).

Several Brownings paid Subsidy in Gimmingham and Trunch between the years 14 Henry VIII. and 4 Charles I., in which latter year Robert Browninge contributed xxs. and iijs. *for landes*.

In Gimingham Church there are two Browninge brasses.

(1) "Here lyeth Elizabeth Browninge who was buried the XVth Daye of August 1632. Robert Browninge her brother was buried the XXVth Daye of October 1634."

(2) "Richus Browninge et Margareta dilecta eius ux' pientissime obierunt A° DNI 1635. Quoe Margareta relicta diu' sas pecuniarum Sumas in pietatis et charitatis opera p' ultimu Testamentu' suu' in' p' petuu' legavit."

CALKE, originally a Paston family, which later on spread into other villages in the neighbourhood. I believe that the local surname Cork, chiefly found in Overstrand and Sidestrand, is a variant of Calke.

Roger atte Calk paid Subsidy in South Repps in 6 Edward III.

Robert Calke paid a fine in 1396-7 for erecting two enclosures in Paston.

Bartholomew Calke occurs in a plea in the same Court Roll.

Land in North Repps is described in 1493 as "formerly of Robert Calke."

Thomas Calke, of Witton, owed suit to Gimingham in 1494.

Call and *Cake* were also common local surnames at this period and may possibly be variants of Calke.

CARRE, CARR, of Sidestrand. This Sidestrand family is frequently mentioned in the Court Rolls, and in the Registers. Thomas Carre occurs in a suit in 1493, and as a juror there in 1497.

Thomas, Richard and William Carre all paid Subsidy in Sidestrand in 14 Henry VIII.

William Carre married Margaret Cake on 12 July, 1561. He was buried on 9 March, 1606, and his widow on 14 Feb. 1618. They left a son.

Richard Carre occurs in a Duchy of Lancaster suit in 1626, where he is described as "husbandman, of *Sydestrond*," and in which he speaks of his father, William Carr. A reference to the Registers shows that "Richard Carre the sounne of Willm Carre and Margaret his wife was baptised the XVth day of August 1572." He married on 12 Nov., 1610, Margaret Richmond, who was buried 3 March, 1628. He survived her until 1641. They had several daughters and two sons named Richard, and W. (sic) who were baptised 16 Dec., 1621, and 9 Jan. 1624.

A certain John Carre and Susan his wife were also resident in Sidestrand at this time and were the parents of two daughters and a son James. John Carre was buried 14 Nov., 1651, and Susan his widow, 10 Dec., 1668.

I have not been able to trace a connection between these Carrs of Sidestrand and the Rev. Andrew Carr, rector of North Repps 1603-1636, who was also a purchaser of some of the Attwood property in North and South Repps in 1616.

The name of Carr is perpetuated in Sidestrand by *Carr's Hill*, a field on the edge of the cliff, which, alas, gets smaller every year through constant landslips.

CLARKE, CLERKE, of Sidestrand. This yeoman family has been connected with Sidestrand for many centuries. The "House of Clerk" occurs in the 15th century Court Rolls, as owing suit of Court in Sidestrand. William Clarke, *tempus* Elizabeth, was churchwarden, and probably the transcriber of the first portion of the Sidestrand Registers. He paid Subsidy in Sidestrand in 35 and 39 Elizabeth (and Robert Clark also contributed in the former year. He was of Trimingham and was married at Sidestrand in 1564, and buried in 1596). In 1586 he was an upholder of the common rights of the inhabitants in a suit *versus* the Grymes of Trimingham.¹⁹ He gives his evidence as "William Clarke of Sydestrond, Yeoman, aged 57." He ceases to be churchwarden in 1596. His wife's name was Johan, and the following children were baptised in Sidestrand. 1589, Dorathie (and buried) and 1592, William. He was buried at Sidestrand in 1618, where he is called William Clark *sen*.

His son William Clarke, *junior*, was of Sidestrand, and had numerous children by his wife Urith, including another William (baptised in 1614). (There was also a fourth William Clark at this time, son of Thomas Clarke, and baptised at Sidestrand in 1600). This third William Clarke married Alice Brown in 1640 and "disclaimed arms in 1664." (Rye). He was father of Urith, 1641, Susan, 1643, Joseph, 1645, and Elizabeth, 1647. (Contemporary with him were Bartholomew and Edward Clarke, also of Sidestrand).

From his time until the present day the family has remained in Sidestrand and Trimingham. The Clarkes declined in prosperity as time went on until they had sunk so low as to receive charity gifts. In 1796 "To a yard of flanel for John Clark 1/8." ("Sidestrand Town Book.")

The last of the family to live and die in Sidestrand was John Clark, son of Thomas Clark, fisherman, b. 1835, who married Hannah Gray in 1857, and died within the last ten years. His brother Thomas Clark is still living at Trimingham, he was born in 1829 and married as long ago as 1851. Like his father and

19. See *Records of a Norfolk Village*, pp. 90-101. John Clarke, of Trimingham, occurs in this suit.

brother he has been a fisherman by trade, and has several sons and daughters. A daughter, Mrs. James Bullimore, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Frank Amis, carry on the family connection with Sidestrand, and there is a field still named "Clark's Piece" upon which the Clark's house once stood.

CUBIT, CUBITT, CUBYT, etc. There were numerous representatives of this widely dispersed family in Gimingham, South Repps and the vicinity. It will be remembered that one of the rebel leaders in 1381 was named Cubith.

Raphe and Thomas Cubit paid Subsidy in Gimingham in 35 and 39 Eliz.

Simond Cubitt paid Subsidy in Mundesley in 21 James I., and Thomas Cubitt in Gimingham in the same year, and in 4 Charles I.

William Cubitt paid in Gimingham in 14 and 15 Charles II., and John Cubitt in South Repps.

In 24 Charles II. Gyles Cubitt paid Hearth Tax for two hearths in Trimingham, and John Cubitt for four in South Repps.

Thomas Cubitt was a voter in Trunch in 1714.

CUTLACK, CUTLAK, CUTTELAK, CUTLOKE, etc. A North Repps family. John and Robert Cutlak were on the jury there in 1493 to 1499, and the Court Rolls contain many references to the family.

John, Robert and Henry paid Subsidy in 14 Henry VIII., and Thomas in 37 Henry VIII.

John and Alis contributed in 34 Eliz., John, Thomas and Richard in 18 James I. and Thomas and Richard in 21 James I.

Thomas and Lawrence Cutlack occur in a document dated 1641, and Thomas was a Subsidy payer again in 4 Charles I. and 15 Charles II., besides paying Hearth Tax for four hearths in 24 Charles II.

The Cutlacks were connected with the Playfords of North Repps, Henry Playford, *gent.*, having married Amy Cutlack. They were both baptised in 1584. He died in 1608 and she in 1641.

ELLIS, of North Repps Hall, from the 17th century onwards for many years. The connection with North Repps may have arisen through the marriage of Richard Ellis in 1602 with Mary Playford of that place. They had issue Mary, born and died January, 1604, William born and died December, 1604, John born 1605, see below, Dorithie born 1609, besides an unchristened baby buried in 1603.

John Ellis was married three times, and Miss Mary Blyth has compiled the following table for me from the North Repps Registers, showing his descendants.

Agnes (1) =	JOHN ELLIS =	(2) Ann, d. 1642.	(3) Abigail.
THOMAS, b. 1628, d. 1629.	MARY, bd. 1632.	JOHN, bapt. 1632.	RICHARD, bapt. 1634. Hearth Tax for 5 hearths, 24 Chas. II.
		EDWARD, bapt. 1636.	WILLIAM, bapt. 1649.
			SAMUEL, bapt. 1651.
			MARY, bapt. 1653.

Another entry in the Registers records the marriage of George Ellis and Alice Dennis, 8 July, 1634.

In the list of voters in North Repps for 1714 we find the names of Robert and Richard Ellis, the latter also voting in 1734.

FLIGHT, of Knapton, Trunch and South Repps. The name occurs in the 15th century Court Rolls and Subsidy Rolls, and on one occasion at any rate the Flights intermarried with the Worts family of Trunch. James Flyght was on the South Repps jury and the Free jury in 1493. In an undated Chancery Suit (Bundle 565, No. 34), described as *circa* 1515, between Nicholas Flight, parson of Mundesley, and Thomas Flight, mention is made of land in Trunch which was to be sold and the proceeds to be used to purchase a red velvet cope "to be boughte to thuse of gods svce in Christs Church in Norwich" (i.e., the Cathedral).

Richard Flight, *senior*, of Knapton, died in 1605.

Robert Flight was witness to the Will of Richard Worts of Trunch in 1663.

John Flight, of Knapton, died in 1670. His will mentions Richard Flight, his late father, Mary his wife, Richard and Andrew his sons, and Mary and Amphilis his daughters (Norris).

In 1664 John Flight of Knapton, Robert Flight of Trunch and Robert Flight of South Repps disclaimed arms.²⁰

GRYME, GRIME, GRIMME, of Gimingham, Trimingham, Sidestrand, Antingham and Suffield. A Visitation family, but one which may originally have been a bond family of the Soke. The "House of Grym" occurs in the Rental of 2 Richard III., and both the "House of Grym" and the "House of Gryme" owed suit of Court in 1497. In the 16th century several members of the family rendered bond services to the manor.

John Grimme paid Subsidy in Suffield in 1 Edward III.

Nich'o Grimme paid Subsidy in Knapton in 6 Edward III.

Edmund Gryme surrendered land in Sidestrand in 5 Richard II., and in the same year took up 1 rood of land in Trunch.

The Herald's Pedigree begins with

(1) Robert Gryme who was a juror for Trimingham in 1493 and 1497, for Gimingham in 1497, and for Trunch in 1499, and whose name occurs frequently in the Court Rolls. In 1499 he

20. *Norfolk Families*, p. 220.

is presented for allowing his cows and horses to make waste in the tenants' corn at Sydestrond, and in the same year he surrenders on his death-bed 30a. 1p. of bondland in Paston. Thomas Gryme occurs in the same Court Roll for 1493, and is presented for not repairing "the common way from the west side of the Church of Trunch" and for stopping up with a stile "a certain common way out of the street called Fenbewestreete leading to the church of Trunch."

(2) Robert Gryme, his son, paid Subsidy in Trimingham in 14 and 37 Henry VIII., and in Gimingham in 3 and 5 Edward VI. He was *messor* for Gimingham, and a chief pledge and juror for Trimingham in 21 Henry VIII. His will is dated 1570 and proved 1572. He married Ann, daughter of — Boys, and left (i.a.) a son.

(3) Thomas Gryme, who paid Subsidy in Gimingham in 14 and 37 Henry VIII., and onwards to 35 Eliz., and was under constable there and on the Inquest at large in 21 Henry VIII. He held land of the manor of Antingham-Wichinghams, and was also a taxpayer in Suffield and Antingham. He married Amphilicia or Amphilis, daughter of Robert Thimblethorp or Themylthorpe of Foulsham, who, after his death, remarried John Kemp of Antingham in 35 Eliz. This Thomas had two brothers Edmund and Richard who were both of Trimingham. He left an eldest son—

(4) George Gryme, who paid Subsidy in Gimingham from 18 James I. to 4 Charles I. He was tenant of Gimingham Hall, lord of Antingham-Wichingham, and a holder of property in Suffield, Sidestrand and Knapton. His name occurs very frequently in all the manor documents of the period and in the suits of the Duchy of Lancaster. He is always described as *gent*. (The will of a George Gryme was proved by his brother Richard Gryme and Richard Gryme, junior, in 1631 "at the Chancellors Court at Norwich contrary to the custome of this mannor," but I think this George was an uncle of the one with whom we are dealing). In the Court Rolls for 1633 there is a surrender by Phillip Alcocke, in which payment is to be made "at the mansion house wherein one George Gryme thelder gent nowe dwelleth in Gimingham," which shows that he were still alive in 1633. In the same year he is presented for unlawfully selling timber out of Southwood in Gimingham, to the deputy of Sir John Hobart. He left a son—

(5) George Gryme, "the younger." On 21 August, 1632, the Gimingham jury find "that George Gryme the younger gent did take downe an old Decaied bearne w^{ch} was buylded uppon pt of his Copiehold land holden of the said manno^r., wth saide barne was

threscore & six feet in leng^{ht}. (sic) & twentie & three feet in breadth, and is building a nother uppon the said Coppihold nere the last barne of length 76 feet & in bredth 23." He is "comanded to build up ye same befor lames day next uppon payne of vjs. viij^d." George Gryme presumably obeyed the order of the Court for the barn still stands with "G.G. 1633." inscribed on a stone at its northern end.

In that year he was wickner for Gimingham, and was a payer of Subsidy there in 21 James I. to 15 Charles II., in which year he is described as "gent assessor." In the same year he was party to a fine in Gimingham *versus* Henry Gryme.

In 1589 "Edmond Gryme of Trimmingham" was certified as unable to contribute to the loan, "by St. Wm. Paston Knight & Martyn Barney Esq^r. Justices of the lymitt, & other persons of good creditt."²¹

The Grymes as a family were much given to litigation, and this Edmond and his brother Richard, both sons of Robert Gryme (2), were involved in a long suit (1586-1613), owing to their encroachment on a piece of common at Boyeswell, in Sidestrand.²² One of the witnesses in 1613 was William Gryme, of Gimingham, yeoman, aged 60, but his relationship to the others does not transpire. He also occurs in 1607 and 1614, and was lord of a manor called "Woodes," presumably the Attewode's holding in Sidestrand. He may have been a son of an earlier William Gryme, who was on the jury of bondmen in 21 Henry VIII. Some members of the family were certainly unfree at that period, for John Gryme paid 6d. chevage for leave to live at Sheringham, outside the manor. From this John descended a Sheringham and Runton branch of the family.

The last mention of the family which I have found in Gimingham is the stone within the Altar Rails of the Church—"Here lies ye Body of Mrs. Eliz. Gryme Relict of Philip Gryme, gent. She died Oct. ye 24th 1727 aged 80."

Gryme of Gimingham and Trimmingham bore arms: "Azure, three cross tau's or."

The following table is an enlargement of the Herald's Pedigree.

21. *Stiffkey Papers*, p. 100.

22. I have printed the suit at some length in Chapter VIII. of *Records of a Norfolk Village*.

GRYME.

JOHN GRIMME in Suffield 1 Edw. III. NICH'O GRIMME in Knapton 6 Edw. III.

ROBERT (1) GRYME = THOMAS GRYME
Trimingham juror 1493, occurs in Court Roll
d. 1499.

ROBERT (2) GRYME = Anne, da. of Boys.
paid Subsidy in Trim-
ingham and Gimingham, 21
Hen. VIII. to 5 Edw.
VI. Will proved 1572.

THOMAS GRYME = Amphillia or Amphillis
d before 35 Eliz. held Thernylthorp. She m.
land in the Soke, and as her 2nd husband
at Antingham and Suf- John Kemp, esq., of
field. Will proved Antingham.
1591.

EDMOND GRYME, of
Trimingham and
Sidestrand.
GEORGE GRYME, d.
1631.

RICHARD GRYME of
Trimingham and
Sidestrand.
RICHARD GRYME
occurs 1632, etc.

CHRISTIN GRYME,
widow, pd. Subsidy in
Gimingham in 39
Eliz.

WILLIAM GRYME
on the jury of bondmen
21 Hen. VIII.

WILLIAM GRYME,
yeoman of Gimingham,
aged 60, in 1613.

JOHN GRYME paid
chevage to live at Sher-
ingham, 21 Hen. VIII.,
and from whom came
the Grymes of Runton
and Sheringham.

GEORGE GRYME =
"the elder," Tenant
of Gimingham Hall,
lord of Antingham-
Wichinghams, 34 El.,
etc.

THOMAS, MARTIN,

MARTHA,

MARY,

JOHN, ROBT.,
living 1632. in Triming-
ham and
Trunch 39
El. 4 Ch. I.

AGNES, ELLENOR.

GEORGE GRYME =
"the younger," of Gim-
ingham, Antingham,
etc. Built a barn in
Gimingham, 1633, and
paid Subsidy there
down to 15 Chas. II.
"Widow Grime paid
Hearth Tax in Knap-
ton, 24 Chas. II.

HENRY GRYME occurs in Gimingham, 12
Chas. II.

ELIZABETH, widow of PHILIP GRYME,
buried at Gimingham, 1727, aged 80.

GOGEL, GOGILL, GOGLE, of Gimingham and Trunch. A Visitation family resident in the neighbourhood of Gimingham for many centuries.

John Gogel paid rent in North Walsham, 14 Richard II.²³

The will of William Gogyll, *of Trunch*, was proved 1434. (Reg. Surfleete, f. 147^b. Norris).

John Gogull, senior and junior, were part tenants of the Gimingham demesne lands in 1462. John Gogyll was one of the Jury of Freemen for the Soke of Gimingham in 1493. In 1496 the Trunch Jury say that John Gogyll, *of Trunch*, has died seized of 60 acres of land, whereof 20 acres are bond heath land, 10 acres bond field land and 30 acres bond woodland, and that Clement his son and next heir is of full age, etc. Here we have a free family holding bond land, but apparently without detriment to its free status.

This John Gogyll was the donor of the beautiful chancel screen in Trunch Church. "By his Will dated 12 May 1496 and proved 26 Mar. 1498 [he] directed to be buried in the Church of St. Botolph of Trunch aforesaid, & gave to the new Edification & reparation of the Perk [screen] there 5 marcs. Sr. Richd. Mytton, Rector of Trunch, Supervisor. (Reg. Multon, f. 77^a. Norris).

Clement, Robert and John Gogyll occur in Trunch and Gimingham, 1493-1499.

Thomas Gogull, *the elder*, paid Subsidy in South Repps in 14 Henry VIII., and was on the jury there in 21 Henry VIII.

Clement Gogyll was a chief pledge for Trunch in 21 Henry VIII.

Richard Gogyll paid Subsidy in Gimingham in 37 Henry VIII. and 3 Edward VI.

In 18 Elizabeth Sir Henry Lee made an unsuccessful attempt to impute villeinage to the family, affirming that Richard Gogill, *of Norwich*, John Gogill, *of Banningham* and James Gogill, *of Wickmere*, were bondmen regardant to the manor of Gimingham. (See Part II., Chapter IV.).

The will of John Gogle, *of Trunch*, is dated 1583, and proved 1585. (Norf. Archdeaconry, Vol. 1459-1559, No. III.).

John Gogle, *gent.*, paid *iiijli.* and *xvjs.* Subsidy in Gimingham in 39 Elizabeth. A few years before, in 1589, "Jo. Gogle of Gymingham is certified unable" to contribute to the loan "by Sr. W^m. Paston Knight and Martyn Barney Esq^r. Justices of the lymitt."²⁴

23. *Rental of North Walsham*, 14 Ric. II. MS. at Gunton.

24. *Stiffkey Papers*, p. 99.

His will is dated 1604, and proved 1606. (Norf. Archdeaconry, Vol. 1459-1559, No. 50).

Robert Gogell paid *iiijl.* and *viijs.* Subsidy in Trimingham in 18 James I., and in Trunch in 21 James I. and 4 Charles I.

Rychard Gogell, *gent.*, paid *iiijl.* and *xvjs.* in Gimingham in 18 James I. and *iiijl.* and *xijs.* in 21 James I.

John Gogle was a contributor in Overstrand in 21 James, and in Trunch in 14 and 15 Charles I.

Thomas Gogle, *gent.*, paid £1 in 14 Charles I., and *xxxs.* and *xijs.* in the following year in Gimingham.

"Thomas Gogill, of *Gimingham*, and John Gogill, of *Trunch*, disclaimed arms in 1664." (Rye).

Richard, son of Thomas Gogle, was baptised at Sidestrand 15 November, 1640.

In the Hearth Tax of 20 Charles II., Thomas Gogle, Richard Gogle and Richard Gogell pay for 4.2 and 4 hearths in Gimingham.

Norris states that the family became extinct about 1730, but from a Court Book of the manor of Paston Sacre we learn that John Gogle died in 1731, and in 1733 his sister, Agnes Gogle, is admitted to land in Swafeld "abutting on the highway from Trunch Mill Hill towards the west, and on the lands of Wm. Browning on the east, lying between the lands late of Tho. Worts and Robert Gogle."

Some of the family seem to have migrated to Norwich, and were no doubt descended from Richard Gogill, who was of Norwich in 18 Elizabeth (see above). John Gogill was buried at St. Martin-at-the-Plain in 1725, aged 45. In 1737 a Mr. Gogill was "Hall's sacramental lecturer" in Norwich.²⁵ He was very probably the same divine who was rector of North Burlingham in 1737, of Brundall *circa* 1747 and afterwards of Ranworth.

"A John Gogle of Holt held land when the New Domesday was taken." (Rye).

The Gogill pedigree is given on the following page.

GREEN, GRENE, of Knapton, gave the name to the manor of Knapton-Greens. (See Part II., Appendix).

25. Blomefield, IV., pp. 317-8.

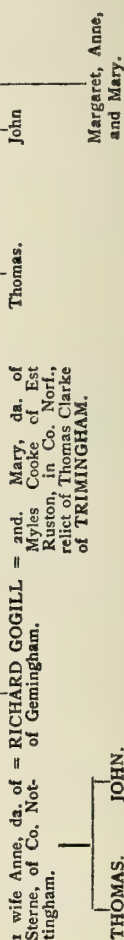
GOGILL.²⁶

(Harl. 1552, ink fo. 221, pencil 216).
ARMS: OR, on a bend sable three crescents of the field.

ROB. GOGILL of Geringham in Norfolk = Jone, da. of Rob. Oliver of Geringham.

RICHARD GOGILL, of Geringm. = Margaret, da. of John Wych, of Mendham, in Suffolk.

JOHN GOGILL, of Geringham = Jone, da. of John Wasy, of South Reppe.



HARTSTONG, of South Repps.²⁷ (Or Hartstrong, Harl. 1177). (Harl. 1552, ink fo. 166B, pencil 160B). Arms:—Per chevron engrailed or and sable, in chief three pellets, and in base a buck trippant of the first. CREST: A demi-savage . . . capped and girdled or, holding a battle-axe argent. (This crest is imperfectly nicked).

WILLIAM HARTS-
TONG, of
Edgfield,
in Norfolk.

JAMES HARTSTONG, =
of South Repps, in
Norfolk. Margaret, da. of
Henry Repps, of
South Repps.

1. JAMES.	2. RAPE HARSTONG = of South Repps. [Head- borough for South Repps, 1629.]	Thomasine, da. of Wm. Cursonn, of Byelow [Bylaugh] in Norfolk.	3. HENRY of Mulber- town in Norfolk.	= Joyce, da. of Rafe Finch, of Kings- downe, in Kent.	Elizabeth.	Amy.
1. FRANCIS HARTESTONGE.	(de Neve's MS.) = Eliz. Standish (Robt. 2. Ralph. Reynold's 2nd husband).	3. Thos. 4. Henry, Mary, and Thomasine.				
da ... of Wales.	... STANDISHE, f.ch., = (1) ... da. of Francis = (2) da. of Boyle of Jermy of Gunton. Armagh, Ireland.		Rafe	Henry	Finch	Edwin
						Eliz. and Joyce.
1. FRANCIS HARTSTONG. A SON.	= 2. STANDISH.	3. JOHN, a Bishop in Ireland.				

27. From *The Visitation of Norfolk* and Le Neve.

In 3 Charles II. the Hartstongs held the manor of Repps in South Repps held in soccage of the manor of Gimingham. (*N. Erp.* 137).

MATCHETT, MACHET, etc., of Gimingham. A Visitation family.

I believe the founder of the Gimingham Matchetts to have been the Rev. John Machet, rector of Thurgarton, 1563 to [?] 1583, and of Gimingham, 1577 to 1591-2. This unfortunate divine "was troubled with a loathing of his meat [and] dyed about May or June, 1591." He was probably the father of

The Rev. James Matchett, rector of Mundesley and Trimingham, 1584 to 1613. He returned 85 Communicants in his parishes in "The Answers of the Parsons" in 1603. A man of poor education, described as "noe graduate" in an Elizabethan MS. describing the status of the Norfolk clergy,²⁸ he is chiefly noted for his quarrelsome disposition, and his name occurs as a party to endless law suits of the period. On one occasion (in 29 Eliz.), John Gogle, gent., of Gimingham, complains that Matchett had sued one Thomas Hynde, of Gimingham "a verie poore man at the Comon Law contrarie to the custome of the manor of Gimingham for very small and tryflinge causes, viz., for once or twice wateringe his cattle at a pond of the Sd. Machett's beinge verie nere the house of the Sd. Hynde and such other causes being mere tryfles farre contrarie to the pffession [profession] and dutie of a mynister of the Worde of God." In addition Matchett is accused of defrauding Hynde's mother, Margaret, widow of William Blowfield, and aunt of Matchett's own wife, Agnes Blowfield, of £4 per annum, which he had guaranteed to pay her in connection with certain Gavelkind lands inherited by his wife. Gogle, as one of the manor jury, therefore went to the ill-natured cleric and admonished him "of his hard dealinge towardes Margaret Blowfield (beinge a verie poore olde woman) in wordes to this effecte, viz. What didst thou meane to take the poore woman's money, didst thou meane to Cosen her, then thou art a desininge knave indeede"—whereupon Matchett proceeded to sue Gogle for slander at the Common Law. Gogle therefore appealed to the Duchy of Lancaster Court to stay the action and to examine Matchett, but the only result of this appears to have been a denial by him of all the charges, and an affirmation that he never gave any bond to pay Margaret Blowfield anything, and he ends with a complaint that Gogle used "malycyous and thundersous words" towards him!²⁹

28. See *N. and N. Archæology*, Vol. XVIII.

29. *D. of L. Pleadings*, Vol. 142, G. 3, and G. 3A.

In Mich. 32-3 Eliz. a fine was made between John Matchett, Clericus, and others v. James Matchett, Clericus, and others in Gimingham,³⁰ possibly the elder Matchett was transferring some of his property to his son before his death, which took place in the same year.

In Mich. 35-6 Eliz. Samuel Matchett occurs as a party to a fine with James Matchett and others,³¹ and this is the first mention that I have found of the most prominent of the Gimingham Matchetts, who was probably a son of the truculent Rev. James.

Samuel Matchett was an important man in Gimingham during the first half of the 17th century, and seems to have done a great deal of work for Mr. Robert Bulleyn of Bale, the then Steward of the Manor.

He paid xls. and viijs. Subsidy in 18 James I., and held many manorial and parochial offices, including that of reeve in 1637.

A number of his letters are preserved amongst the Gunton MSS., from which the following extracts have been taken:—

(1). *Sam: Matchet to Mr. Robt. Bulleyn.*

To my much respected friend Mr. Robt. Bulleyn Steward of the Kings Ma^{ties} Court of his manno^r of Gymingham'

Sr. although I am not ignorant that the King's Ma^{ties} service ought to be pformed, yet for that I verily beleeeve there is not any businesse of importance at this tyme wthin the p^rinct of o^r [our] Leet, I have made soe bould at this tyme p^rsuminge upon yo^r accustomed favour as upon S^r John Heveningham (my noble master) his comand to attend his Worp [worship] at Ketteringham, And for that I finde my neighbours inclininge to make choyse of me at the Leet to be one of the Constables of o^r towne (although I bear already the offices of Churchwarden & Overseer of the poore), Good S^r let me intreat you if I shalbe chosen one of the Constables to sweare Thomas Cubit thelder in my stead, whom I have pmised [promised] a good reward for his paynes & will assist him by my advise & otherwise to the best of my power about the execution of the office of Constable. I know you are so truly iudicious as yo^u think me unfitt to pform three offices at one tyme. Thus not doubting of yo^r friendly respect herein wth my best respects comended unto you I shall eu' [ever] remayne

30. *N. Exp.*, p. 567.

31. *Ibid.*

Yo^r friend to comand

Sam : Machet.

30^o July 1632. [Sealed, with the Matchett Coat, Per Saltier or and azure, on a fesse gules, three fleur-de-lys argent].

(2). *To my approved kinde friende Mr. Robert Bulleyn at Bale, give these.*

Worthie Sr. I intend to invite Mr. Sansome to my house upon tuesday at night if there shalbe no correspondence between my Cousin Gryme³² and him, but if there shalbe a friendly passage between them then Gimingham hall wilbe pferred [preferred] before my Cottage. I am soe streightnd for want of lodginge chambers where I dwell as I have but one good chamber fitt to entertayne gent of yo^r rank & a chamber fitt for yo^r men. If you conceive it will stand wth yo^r and Mr. Sansomes good likinge to be bedfellowes, I will give you both the best welcome I can to testifie the serviceable respect I beare unto or nowe Lords.³³ [etc:]

Yo^r lovinge friende,

Samuel Machet.

Gimingham ij^o April 1634.

I will speake to good man ffarrove to make some pvisuon [provision] of diet at Gimingham Hall for the Court as he hath formerly done. [etc:]

(3). [*To the same*].

Sr. I cannot but more than marvell that a gent of yo^r great understanding & longe experience should seale wth harde wax upon the back of the warrant for the seisure Soe as a man could not wthout something made very hott in the fire open the Seales wthout rentinge & defacing of the said wax. [etc.] I assure you that it cost me for the messenger his paynes in sendinge to you about the saide businesse when I was Haiward xvij^d. wth was not allowed me. What a great trouble beside the charges hath the savinge of two sheetes of paper occasioned. [etc:] [Undated, but with letters of 1639].

(4). 16 Oct., 1640. *Letter from Samuel Machet to the Steward, Mr. John Allen, excusing himself from attending the Court as he is "much troubled wth the runinge gout & this stormie season makes me suffer more in that & also in some other diseases."* [etc:]

32. Then tenant of Gimingham Hall.

33. The manor of Gimingham had recently been acquired on lease by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of London.

Samuel Matchett's name occurs in every Court Roll of the period, as either a juror or a malefactor! In 1632 he and John Gryme, of Trimingham, are each fined 3d. "for that they suffer their thornes and Brambles to overhange a common packway in Gymingham comonly called Ffennlooke," and in 1640 he is again amerced the same amount "for that he suffereth his boughes at burnt pightle to ou'hange [overhang] Yarmouthe waye." He was a considerable tenant of the manor and on 13 Jan. 1651-2, shortly before his death, we find him and "Mary his wife" paying 40s. "for a ffine due upon their admission to one mess and XIX acres of land $\frac{1}{2}$ a roode xvij prches in Trunch." Soon after this he died and on 20 July, 1652, a fine of £30 9s. is paid by "John Matchett gent., on the death of his father Samuell Matchett gent," the property consisting of one messuage, two cottages and 76a. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ r. of land, of which a good deal is described as *bondland*, and some as *lancett* and *seland*." At this time John Matchett was under age, and his guardian "John Buttolph gent" pays a fine of 3s. 4d., on his admission to the above lands "untill he [John Matchett] shall attayne his age of xxi^{ty} yeres, being of thage of xix yeres."

"John Machett of Gimingham in the Visitation of 1664 bore, Per Saltier or and az. on a fesse gu. three fleurs de lis arg." (Rye).

In 14 Charles II., John Matchett gent. paid £3 Subsidy.

In Trinity term, 2 William and Mary, a fine was made between "Rob. Freeman, Ar., and others v. Henry Matchet, Remey and Spanton, in Gimingham."³⁴ After that date the family appears to have left Gimingham, and possibly the Norwich Matchetts were their descendants.

A field on the cliff boundary between Sidestrand and Trimingham is still called "Madgetts."

Curiously enough, the Rev. Abraham Matchett was rector of Trimingham from 1873 to 1883, but I do not know if he claimed relationship with the original Gimingham family.

MOTTE of Sidestrand. John Motte paid Subsidy in Sidestrand in 14 Henry VIII., and 3 Edward VI., and was on the jury there in 21 Henry VIII. Margaret, wife of John Motte, was buried there in 1558, and his daughter, Margaret, in 1559. Thomas Motte paid Subsidy in Sidestrand in 14 Henry VIII. William Motte was married to Margaret Dallinge at Sidestrand on 28 Oct., 1558, William, their son, was baptised in 1560, and Margaret, their daughter, in 1564. William Motte was buried at Sidestrand in 1568.

34. *N. Erp.*, p. 588.

Thomas Motte was the father of (1) John, (2) Thomas, (3) Amye. Both sons were married at Sidestrand in 1561.

(1) John, *the younger*, and Margaret his wife were parents of Johan, baptised 1564, Margaret, baptised 1567, John, *buried* 1570, Robert, baptised 1573, Cicelie, baptised 1576 and George, baptised 1579.

(2) Thomas, *the younger*, and Francis his wife were parents of Amye, baptised 1563, and Thomas, baptised 1565. Thomas Motte was buried in 1574, and *Johan*, wife of Thomas Motte, in 1575, so he was probably married twice.

The last of the family to be buried in Sidestrand was Cicely Motte, 17 June, 1671. If she was the Cecelie above mentioned who was baptised in 1576, she was of the ripe age of 95!

PAUL, PAWELL, POWELL, POWLE, etc. This family occurs in the Court Rolls in Paston, Knapton, Trunch, North Repps and South Repps from 1396 onwards, and is still resident in Trunch. The local surname of Paul, which is specially common in Overstrand, no doubt comes from the same stock.

Gervas Powel paid Subsidy in Gimingham in 1 and 6 Edward III., and in the latter year William Powel also contributed in that village.

Alice, the wife of Richard Powel, died in 1396-7 seized of 14a. $\frac{1}{2}$ r., and a cottage in Paston, Knapton and Trunch, and her son and heir, Clement Powel, paid a heriot for them of 26s. 9d.

In the same year Richard Pawyl surrendered 1a. in Trunch. He paid rent to the manor in 1414-15. In the same year 1a. in North Repps is surrendered to William Powell.

Robert Poul occurs in the Rental of 2 Richard III., and in the same document the House of Powle is mentioned.

John Poul was on the South Repps jury in 1493, and 1496. Robert and William Poull are parties in a plea of debt "per wigen de South" in 1496.

George Powle or Powel paid Subsidy in Knapton in 37 Henry VIII.

In the same year Thomas and Edmond Powle contributed in Trimmingham.

Stephen Powle paid Subsidy in North Repps in 39 Elizabeth.

In 13 James I., a fine was underyaken between J. Underwood *versus* George Powle of land in North Repps.

In 5 Charles I. a fine was made between Richard Powle *versus* Gregory Colby of land in North Repps.

In 14 and 15 Charles II. Elizabeth Powle, widow, paid Subsidy in North Repps.

In 20 Charles II. Thomas Elden acquired land in North Repps by fine from Richard Powel and others, and another fine in 13 William and Mary records a similar transaction between Thomas Johnson and Richard Powell and others.

This family was also resident in Antingham, Suffield and Aylmerton.

PLAYFORD, of North Repps and Sidestrand. This family probably came from Playford in Suffolk, but for many centuries the Playfords were located at North Repps. It would take too much space to give all the references to them from the Court Rolls, etc. For a longer account of them the reader is referred to Mr. Rye's "Norfolk Families."

The Will of Robert Playford, of North Repps, was proved in 1430.

John Playforth, of North Repps, may have been his son. He was twice married, and he and his first wife were the donors of the Rood Screen in North Repps Church, which bears the inscription—

"Orate p[ro] [etc:] Johis Playford: et Custacie ux' eiu'
omnib[us] benefactorib[us]: suis."

He also bequeathed a legacy to Ingham Priory.

He had three sons, John, Robert, and William.

John Playford paid Subsidy in North Repps in 1522, and was buried at North Repps on 7 August, 1558. His daughter Ann was buried on 7 June, 1559.³⁵

Robert Playford married the daughter of Nicholas Rugge, of North Repps.

William Playford moved to the adjoining parish of Sidestrand, where he founded the Sidestrand branch of the family. He paid Subsidy there in 14 and 37 Henry VIII., and was a juror in 21 Henry VIII. He was probably the father of Thomas Playford, who married a wife named Aymie and was buried at Sidestrand on 7 August, 1587. For further particulars of the Sidestrand Playfords, see "Records of a Norfolk Village."

At the same period there was a Robert Playford, of Brinton, who evidently belonged to this family, for in his will dated 1532, he gives legacies to the High Altars of North Repps and Overstrand.³⁶

35. On 27 February, 1559, Thomas Webster was married to Dorithie Plaiford at North Repps.

36. Rye, *Norfolk Families*, p. 676.

The elder branch of the Playfords remained at North Repps until 1841, and an old house there is still known as "Playfords," whilst "Madam Lane" is named after one of the last Mrs. Playfords, who frequently walked along it to visit a friend at Ivy Farm, Overstrand.

The Registers contain many entries relating to the family, from which the following two fragments of a pedigree have been compiled by Miss Mary Blyth, which are printed on the next page.

PRIMROSE, PRYMROSE, of Trunch and South Repps. This family has been at South Repps and Trunch for many centuries, and is still represented in the latter parish by Mr. Francis Primrose, who, with his brother, Mr. Thomas Primrose, now of Sidestrand, are the sole survivors of a long line. A son was born to the latter on May 6th 1916.

"Bartholomew Prymrose was of Southrepps in 1411. See Ancient Deeds, C 3,471." (Rye).

William Prymrose was a juror for Trunch in 1493, and Peter Prymrose occurs in the Court Roll for the same year.

The subsequent rolls contain the names of many Primroses, and a Trunch jury is hardly complete without one of the family upon it. Several of the family occur in the Subsidy Rolls.

RUGG or RUGGE, of North Repps. A Visitation family, described as Rugg *alias* Repps. Arms: Gules, a chevron between three mullets pierced argent. Crest: a talbot passant argent, eared, collared and tinged sable.

The Visitation Pedigree begins with Robert Rugg, who was alive in 2 Edward III. He may be the same individual as Roger Rugge who is found in the Subsidy Roll for North Repps, 1 and 6 Edward III.

Nicholas Rugge rendered 3s. rent to Gimingham in 1391-2 for 2 acres in North Repps, which he had purchased from John Godfelagh, and his name occurs in the Court Roll for 1397.

"Thomas Rugge of Northrepps was one of the executors of Roger Rugge of Overstrand, whose will was dated and proved 1442—(Reg. Doke, f. 207a." Norris).

Robert Rugge, of Northrepps, was executor to John Rugge, of Overstrand, who by his will, dated 1474, and proved 1476, "directed to be buried in the Church of the Fryers. preachers at Norwich and gave to the said fryers 13s. 4d. (Reg. Gelour, f. 135b." Norris). Norris gives further references to this Robert

(A) HENRY PLAIFORD, ⁽¹⁾ = SUSAN ⁽²⁾ = Robt. Rise
buried 1588.

Mary, bapd. 1577.
burd. 1587.

Elizabeth, bapd. 1581.

HENRY, Gent., bapd. = Amy Cutlack, of
1584, married 1608. | North Repps, bapd.
1584, burd. 1641.

William, bapd. 1586.

Cicely = married
bapd. 1635 to John
1609. Jecks.

THOMAS
bapd.
1612.

Amy
bapd.
1616.

634 John
Rogers

HENRY
bapd.
1618.

JOHN
bapt.
1620.

ICHAN
bapd.
1622.

ANTHO
bapt.
1625.

FRANCIS,
hapd. 1627,
hd. 1628.

WILLIAM,
capd. 1629,
bd. 1631.

(B) NICHOLAS PLAIFORD = Alice —
bd. 1615, aged 69. bd. 1612.

THOMAS
bapd.
1571.

RICHARD
bapd. 1574
bd. 1577.

— Marie
bapd.
1576

— Marie = 1602 Rich. Ellis.

ROBERT
bapd. and
bd. 1579.

JOHN
bapt.
1580.

AGNES.
bapd.
1582.

Rugge in 1479, 1501 and 1504. He was a juror for North Repps and on the Free jury in 1493 and 1497. In his will, dated and proved 1511, he "directed to be buried in the Church or Churchyard of our Lady there [North Repps]; to Nich[ola]s his son. all his lands free and copyhold holden to Robt., Roger, William, John and Thomas³⁷ his sons, Cicely and Ing [? Jgnes for Agnes] his daughters, to the church aforesaid a Vestment of the price of 5 marcs. Executors, Dom William Reppis, a monk [afterwards bishop of Norwich], and Nich^s. Flyght, clerk, [rector of Mundesley]. ("Reg. Johnson, f. 137b," Norris).

Of his sons, Nicholas paid Subsidy in North Repps in 14 Henry VIII., and was a juror there in 21 Henry VIII. Roger occurs there in 1522. An Isabell Rugge, *widow*, was a Subsidy payer in North Repps in 37 Henry VIII. William, another brother, may have been the William Rugge who served on the North Repps and Grand juries in 1493 and 1497. He died in 1512 and his brass still remains in North Repps Church.

"Here lyeth Willm Rugge the wych deyd the second day of May the yere of our Lord God M^oV^e XII^o of qwoos sowle God have mcy."

By his wife, Agnes, he was the father of several sons, including William, the notorious bishop of Norwich, Nicholas, who died in 1549, and directed to be buried in the Chancel, leaving to his wife Isabel his copyhold house and land called "Bekes," in North Repps, and Robert Rugge, sheriff of Norwich in 1537, and Mayor in 1545 and 1550.

Robert Rugge was probably the eldest and was certainly the holder of the greater part of the North Repps property, which he augmented in 37 Henry VIII., by acquiring from Christopher Heydon the manors of North Repps and Metton, "10 messuages, 200 acres of land, etc: and 10l. *per ann.* rent."³⁸ "He was the recipient from his brother of much pillage of the See by means of improvident leases."³⁹ In his will, dated 1558 and proved 1559, he mentions his manor of "Northrepps Hall," and lands and tenements in North Repps, South Repps, Gimingham, Antingham, Suffield, Felming-

37. Thomas Rugge had a daughter Elizabeth. She was doubtless the "Elizabeth Ruge" who was buried at North Repps on 19 April, 1559. She probably died of plague or some such epidemic, for the rate of burials in North Repps was very high that year. In March, 1559, there were six burials and nine in April, while in an average year there are not more than two or three in the whole twelve months. A similar state of things is shown in the Sidestrand and Lammas Registers.

38. Blomefield, VIII., p. 151.

39. Rye, *Norfolk Families*.

ham,⁴⁰ etc. By his first wife, Elizabeth, he left his [?] third son, William Rugge, lord of North Repps in 1572. He was the builder of Ruggs Hall in Felmingham, where he resided. "He gave £50 to the defence of the county in 1588"⁴¹ and was one of the justices who guaranteed the inability of various persons to contribute to the Loan in 1588-91. Amongst the list of defaulters dated 1 March, 1591, which is preserved amongst the papers of Sir Nathaniel Bacon, are the following:—

"Willm. Croppe gen. [husband of Margaret de Reppes, the heiress of North and South Repps], alledgeth his disability and bringeth a certific^t to wytnesse the same from Willm. Rugge Esqr. Justice of the lymitt.

Jo. Funteyn bringeth the like certific^t from Mr. Rugge, and a certific^t also from three prechers who be verie honest men and of credytt.

Robt. Themilthorp certefyed to be unable to lend by Wm. Rugge Esqr."⁴²

In 1594 he was one of the commissioners for rating and taxing the Hundred of North Erpingham.

William Rugge married Thomasine, daughter of Sir Robert Townshend, of Guist, and widow of William Curson of Beckhall, Billingford. His daughter Frances married Edward, Lord Cromwell, grandson of Thomas Cromwell. He had a son, Thomas Rugge, of Felmingham, who died during his father's lifetime, and was buried at North Repps on 6 August, 1584, leaving a son,

Robert Rugge, who married Constance, daughter and heiress of — Taylor of Hardingham. Robert was alive in 1638. Of his sons

(1) Thomas Rugge was fined for absence from the North Repps jury in 1632, and in 1633 he writes to the Steward of Gimingham: "I doe Authorise my lovinge Neybor Tho. Playford of Northrepes to execute the office of Reve for this yere: I doe also put the said Tho: Playford in authority to serve as wickner for my house Southwood in Northrepes. Tho: Rugge:" A note in the Court Roll for 1634 records "Mr. Rugge for Reife, Tho: Playford for Deputie."

In 1649 a surrender is made by "Thomas Rugge Esqr. & Bridget his wife, into the hands of the lordes, of the moytie & one halfe of his coppihold land to John Reymes, Esqr. & Robt. Reymes gent," unless

40. For his will see Part IV., Chapter IV.

41. *Norfolk Families*.

42. *The Official Papers of Sir Nathaniel Bacon, of Stiffkey*, edited by H. W. Saunders, Vol. XXVI., Camden 3rd Series, p. 98 and p. 100. Probably Themilthorp was his brother-in-law, as Robert Rugge in his wills speaks of his "daughter Themylthorpe."

£116 is forthcoming before a certain date at the de Reymes mansion in Overstrand. In the same year Thomas Rugge was wickner for North Repps.

Thomas Rugge had in 1641 lost his only son, and the North Registers contain this entry :—

“ 1641. William Rugg ye son of Thomas Rugg & Bridgett his wife was buried ye 19th of September.”

A Mary Ruge, who was buried at North Repps on 25 July, 1648, may possibly have been his daughter. Perhaps this loss led to the mortgaging of his property, since he no longer had an heir to succeed him. In addition to the 1649 mortgage to the Reymes's, we find him in 1666 mortgaging both North Repps and Hardingham to Thomas Clayton, Lord Mayor of London.

In 15 Charles II. Thos. Rugge, gent, paid Subsidy in North Repps.

Of *Robert Rugge's* other sons,

(2) Francis Rugge “ was Sheriff in 1572, and Mayor of Norwich in 1598 and 1602, and gave £25 to the defence of the county in 1588, and d.s.p. 1609.⁴³ And (3) Robert Rugge was rector of Thurgarton in 1556, and afterwards archdeacon of Suffolk. John Rugge is also mentioned in his Will, an annuity of £4 being given him “ & if when he shall return from beyond the seas He will exercise the office of a priest as by His orders he is bound to doe, then ” he is to have “ the next Avoidance of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury ” [etc.].

We have left till the last the most notorious member of the Rugge family, William Rugge, *alias* Repps, the last pre-Reformation Bishop of Norwich. I am afraid that Dom William bore a very doubtful character, in spite of his sacred calling, and he was sub-prior of Norwich Priory at a time when it had an extremely bad reputation. At the Bishop's Visitations in 1514 and 1520 the state of affairs there was most unsatisfactory, and William Rugge “ was letting things go as they would, and seeking only to get the suffrages of the younger and disorderly among the monks with a view to winning their votes when the prior, Robert Catton, should receive the preferment which could not long escape his grasping hands.”⁴⁴ Subsequently he became the mitred abbot of St. Benet at Hulme. At the Visitation of Bishop Nicke in 1532 the abbot “ deposed that all things were as they should be in his house, except that debt was undeniable. But the brethren

43. Rye, *Norfolk Families*.

44. Jessopp, *Visitations of the Diocese of Norwich*, A.D., 1492-1532, p. xix.

declared that things were *not* as they ought to be. No ! as at Norwich, so here, the monks had become lax, and their dress bewrayed them. Some had discarded the old monastic sandals, some persisted in wearing linen shirts ; the juniors no longer observed religious silence as formerly, they roamed outside the precincts as they pleased. Some of them were grossly ignorant—an unheard-of scandal ! The dogs were worse than ever, howling to the disturbance of the brethren, the seniors made the juniors say mass for them, the pocket-money was irregularly paid. Dom. Thomas Starham's soul was given over to hunting, and, of course, there were wranglings and bickerings and unhappiness."⁴⁵

William Repps became Bishop of Norwich in 1536, and spoiled the diocese of everything he could lay hands on. He was compelled to resign in 1549, and died in 1550.

William Rugge supported Henry VIII. in his divorce of Catharine of Aragon, and the bishopric of Norwich was his reward. His royal patron, however, made a good bargain for himself out of his appointment, determining "to honour him with the title of this bishoprick, and at the same time make him contented with the revenues of his abbey only."⁴⁶ The barony and revenues of the See were severed from it by Act of Parliament for the benefit of the king, and the revenues and estates of St. Benet's Abbey added to it instead, "the monastery being never dissolved, only transferred to the statute, before the general Dissolution ; the Bishop of this See [being] the only abbot at this day in England."⁴⁷

The unfortunate part of the business for the new bishop was that he had already squandered the substance of the abbey during his tenure of office there, and so diminished were the revenues that he was obliged to retain to his own use the tenths of the clergy which should have been paid to the "First Fruits Office." His debts and liabilities multiplied, and he found himself in 1546 compelled to lease what remained of the episcopal estates to Sir Wimond Carew (treasurer of the First Fruits Office), his brother Robert, Mayor of Norwich, standing surety for him.

The diocese complained loudly of this wholesale spoliation, and in 1549 the Bishop was obliged to resign, with a pension of £200 a year. A contemporary wrote of him :—

" Poor WILL, THOU *rugged* out, and *ragged* ALL,
The *abbey* cannot blesse thee in such fame,
To keep a *palace* fair and stately *hall*,
When gone is thence, that should maintaine the same.

45. *Ibid.*, p. xxvii.

46. Blomefield, III., pp. 547-8.

47. *Ibid.*

First pay thy debts, and hence return to *cell*,
 And pray the blessed *Saint*⁴⁸ whom thou dost serve,
 That others may maintaine the *pallace* well,
 For if THOU stay'st, we all are like to starve."

Bishop Rugge was a bitter opponent of the reformers, "and having had some discourse with Bilney and Latimer about their Protestant principles, he so much misrepresented them, as to move Mr. Spenser, their friend, who was a monk himself, and strenuous Papist, to publish the *Trialogue* between Thomas Bilney, Hugh Latimer, and William Reppes, to show the just complaints they had against him."⁴⁹

He was a cruel persecutor of Protestants, and at the burning of John Peke at Ipswich, he granted forty days pardon to any who should cast a stick into the fire, "whereupon Sir John Audley, Knt., Baron Curson, Knt., and many other gentlemen there present, rose from their seats, and with their swords cut down boughs, and threw them into the fire; whose example the populace followed and did the like."⁵⁰

This notorious bishop did not long survive his resignation, and died on 21 September, 1550. He "was buried in the middle of the Choir of the Cathedral." Not inappropriately the pillager's grave stone has been robbed of its brass!

SMYTH, of Knapton, see Part IV., Chapter IV.

SPELMAN, SPILMAN, SPYLMAN, of Sidestrand.

Nicholas Spilman paid xvij*d.* and Richard Spilman xij*d.* in Sidestrand in 1 Edward III. Subsidy, and xvij*d.* and xvij*d.* in that of 6 Edward III.

Thomas Baxter, of Cromer, in his evidence in a Duchy of Lancaster Suit, 10 James I., mentions that William Spilman acquired land in Sidestrand in 35 Henry VI. Nicholas Spylman was a Sidestrand Juror in 1493, and 1497, and in the latter year the "House of Spilman" paid 4*d.* for respite of suit. He was a juror again in 1499, in which year "the House of Spilman" is elected to perform the office of *wigoner*, William Skynner being tenant. Thomas Spilman paid xls. and xij*d.* Subsidy in 14 Henry VIII., xs. in 37 Henry VIII., xiiij*s.* in 3 Edward VI., and xij*s.* in 5 Edward VI. He was on the Sidestrand jury in 21 Henry VIII. In the same year the North Repps jury complain that he has damaged his neighbours' corn with his cocks and hens.

48. St. Benet.

49. Blomefield, III., p. 549.

50. *Ibid.*, p. 550.

Alice, wife of Thomas Spilman, was buried at Sidestrand 1 Nov., 1588. Thomas Spilman's Will is dated 1554, and was proved 1557.

Gregorie, son of Thomas Spilman, was buried at Sidestrand 22 Oct., 1558. He signed the Church Inventory 1552.

William, another son, was father of a daughter Alice, baptized at Sidestrand 1 Aug., 1565.

Annah Spilman, daughter of Robert Spilman, was baptised at Sidestrand, 26 March, 1585.

This family was also of *Cromer, North and South Repps*. See "*Norfolk Families*."

"John Spelman, of South Repps, disclaimed arms in 1664."

THEXTON, OR THAXTON, of Trunch. A clerical family and landholding family in the Soke.

Lancelot Thexton, S.T.B., was rector of Trunch from 1572 to 1588, and "first prebend" of Norwich, 1576—1588. His monument is on the North wall of the Chancel, and bears this inscription:

"Lancellotus Thexton Cappelanus Regis Edw. VI., sacre theologie baccalaureus et rector de Trunch obt. 22 Feb. 1588"; with arms, Quarterly 1 and 4 a cross between four lions' heads erased gu., 2 and 3 erm. fretty az. Subsequently Robert Thexton was rector of Trunch, 1589 to 1609, and was followed by two more rectors of the same name, viz., Robert Thexton, 1609 to 1660, who was also rector of Gimingham in 1650, and Robert Thexton, 1660 to 1709. Meanwhile Thomas Thexton was rector of Gimingham from 1623 to 1650, and reeve there in 1640. Andrew Thexton, clerk, was a party to two local fines in 1 and 4 Anne.

Over the South door of the Chancel at Trunch is a curious stone "at the corners of the device, consisting of a sceptre, pickaxe in saltier, surrounded by a scull, are the initials R.T., A.T., which are said to be for Robert and Ann Thaxton."⁵¹

The Thextons were concerned in the following land transactions:

In 42-43 Eliz. Rob. Thexton, cler., was a party to a fine v. Robt. Empson and others in Swafield and Trunch.

In 1666 Lansalet Thexton issued a Token, as a grocer in Aylsham, bearing the Grocers' Arms.⁵²

In 4 Wm. and Mary Tho. Thexton and others were parties to a fine v. Rob. Thexton, cler., and others, in Trunch, Gimingham, etc.

In 1 Anne Wm. Tower and others were parties to a fine v. Andrew Thexton, cler., and others in Trunch, and in 4 Anne, Wm. Harmer

51. *N. Exp.*, p. 395.

52. Ewing, *Norfolk Lists*, p. 184.

and others are parties to another fine v. Andrew Thexton, wife and others in Trunch.

WACY or WASY, a Subsidy-paying family in South Repps.

WIGGOT, a Knapton and Trunch family which occurs frequently in the 16th and 17th Century Rolls. They styled themselves gentlemen, and were payers of Subsidy in Knapton from 18 James I. to 15 Charles II. Edward Wiggott paid Hearth Tax there in 24 Charles II.

WITHER, WYTHIER, a Subsidy-paying family in Trunch.

WORTS, Woorts or Wurts, of Trunch, and South Repps. Most of the Court Rolls contain references to Members of this family. The notorious John Paston, *alias* Wortes, Prior of Bromholm and Bishop of Cork in the early 15th Century was doubtless one of this family.⁵³

Norris begins the pedigree with Ralph Worts, of Trunch. He was father to William Worts, of the same place, who was tenant in part of the demesne lands in 1462, and who made his Will in 1481, proved 1482, "in which he mentions 3 sons, Robt. ("late Messor of the lordship," 1496), John and Clement (Trunch juror 1493. All three brothers were jurors in 1499), and diverse Estates in Trunch, Swafeld, Gymyngham, Knapton and Southfield (Reg. Caston, f. 136a." Norris).

Robert Wortes occurs in 1497, and "as witness to a will, along with his brother Clement in 1504." (Norris).

Clement Wortis of *Trunch* died in 1535, and in his Will gives "a legacy to each of the 2 guilds there, to the Plough Light of the East end, and to the other 2 Plough Lights in the said Town, mentions Margaret his wife, John, Richard and Thomas, his sons and his daughter Agnes. (Reg. Gilly, f. 16a)." (Norris).

His widow lived until 1557. Their three sons all left issue. It would take up too much space to trace their history here, and the enquirer is referred to Norris's full account of the family in his MS. History of North Erpingham.

It may be noted that from John, the eldest son, were descended the Worts of Bacton.

(2) The second brother, Richard, remained at Trunch and was executor to Bertram Woodhouse, the rector, in 1545. Doubtless, his eldest son Bartram was named after this divine. Richard married Dorothy, daughter of John Blofeld, senior, of Cromer, by whom he

53. See Paston Letters, printed earlier in this chapter.

had six sons and one daughter. He was "executor to his cousin Dorothy Broninge, of Trunch, Widow," in 1558 (see Browninge), and "Supervisor of the Will of Willm. Browning," in 1560 (Norris). He died 1562-3.

(3) Thomas Worts, the third son of Clement and Margaret, married Joan, another daughter of John Blofeld, of Cromer. He is described as "of Trunch, Yeoman," in his Will, dated 1546, and proved 1547, "he directed to be buried in the Churchyard of Trunch," and gave legacies to his wife, four sons, and two daughters. His daughter Cecily married Thomas Browning, lord of the manor of Colmans in Trunch, and it was possibly through this Cecily that the Worts family acquired this Manor at some date before 1632. (See Browninge).

The descendants of the above remained in and near Trunch until about 1694, in which year William Woorts was buried there, "with a coat of Three lions rampant, 2 and 1."⁵⁴ His widow took the property to her second husband, Isaac Preston, of Beeston.

The later Subsidy Rolls contain the names of many members of the family.

There are still several labouring families of this name in Trunch.

The following names also occur very frequently in the manor records :—

ALBON, of Trunch and Paston.

ALLIBASTER, ALLIBLASTER, ARBLASTER, of Knapton and Trunch.

ARCALL, of Paston, etc.

⁵⁵ATTE CHIRCHE, of Gimingham.

ATTE GATE or YATE, of Gimingham.

ATTE HEATH or HEYTH, of Sidestrand and Trimingham.

ATTE HILL or HYL, of Gimingham.

BARKER, in most of the villages.

BENYNGTON, of Gimingham.

BETER, of Mundesley.

BLACMAN or BLACKMAN, of Gimingham.

BRANTE, of Swafeld.

BRAYE, of North Repps.

CAUSTON or CAWSTON, of South Repps. (A Subsidy-paying family).

CHILDE, of Mundesley.

54. *Norfolk Families*, p. 1034.

55. The prefix *atte* is very common. Atte Bek, Atte Dam and Atte Well also occur in the Soke.

CLIPPERTON, of Trimingham, Sidestrand, etc.

COLBY, of North Repps, etc.

COLLARD, of Gimingham.

CRISTMAS, of Sidestrand.

DYBALL, in most of the villages.

EMMSON, of South Repps.

GANT, GAUNT, of Gimingham. Chiefly in the late 14th Century. Was there a connection with the lord of Gimingham, John of Gaunt?

GARLEK, of Gimingham.

GEES, of Gimingham and Mundesley.

GERVEYS or JARVEYS, of Gimingham.

GRAY, GREY, of North Repps, etc.

HOBERD.

HORNYNGTOFT, of Gimingham.

HOWES or ATTE HOO, of South Repps, etc.

HOWESGOO or HOWSEYGOO, of South Repps.

JEKYLL, of Gimingham.

JOWLER, of Gimingham.

KEY, of North Repps, etc.

KING, KYNG, of Gimingham, Paston, etc.

MADOUR, of South Repps. One of the 1381 rebels was John Madour, of South Repps.

PACE, PAYS, of Trimingham.

PACKMAN, of Gimingham and Trimingham.

PAYNE, from early times until the present day in nearly all the Soke villages.

PONDER, POUNDER, PONDEZ, of Trimingham, etc.

PRATTE, of Mundesley.

PURKE.

QWEYNTINE, QWEYNTMENT, CONTEMAN, of North Repps. Bartholomew, of this family, spells his name in all these forms between 1381 and 1414.

RICHERSSON, of Gimingham.

RISEBOROUGH, RISEBROW, etc., of North Repps.

ROPER, of Gimingham.

RUST, of South Repps, etc.

SAUTRE, SAWTRE, of North Repps.

SKYRWITTE, of Gimingham, etc.

SPARKE, of Gimingham.

TRAM, TRAMME.

TRUSBUT, of Gimingham, etc.

WAKE, of Gimingham.

APPENDIX.

REFERENCES TO GIMINGHAM, KNAPTON, AND MUNDESLEY, FROM THE PASTON LETTERS.

(MUNDESLEY)

A.D. 1425.

(No. III. Intro.) William Paston to John Staynford.

A letter giving orders for the cutting and sending of certain blocks of stone. The letter ends, "I wold have swiche stoon a xx^{ti} tunne tight carried to Moneslee in Norfolk between Crowmere and Bromholm, and but a myle from Bromholm.

To reporte plein answere of this bylle writen and how sone I myght have the seid stone caried to Monesle afor seid, and for what price."

(Vol. I., p. 5).

Grant of land between Rich. s. of John, s. of Rich. de Paston, and Richer Alunday and his heirs, "his native Alan de Tilney, with all his family, etc., and 7 acres of land in Paston and Knapⁿ., with messuages, etc., for 4 marks of silver "in gersuman," and a rent of 22d. a year. Deed quoted by Blomefield.

(Do.).

Undated Indenture between Clement Parcerit of Gimingham, and Cecil, his wife, and Edmund, the son of Robert de Paston, concerning lands in Paston Field. (Add. Charter 14, 814 B.M.).

(No. 55) A.D. 1447, 29 Nov. Abstract. (Add. Charter 7, 236, B.M. (Paston MSS.)).

"Indenture, dated St. Andrew's Eve, 26 Henry VI., between Agnes Paston and Waryn Baxtr, the former agreeing that Baxter shall have, at the will of the lord of the manor of Knapton, the lands, etc., that were Richard Redys (Ride's) with reservations."

(No. 475) A.D. 1463, 15 Aug. Abstract. (Add. Charter 14, 514, B.M., D. Turner's Coll.).

"Deed poll whereby Elizabeth, widow of John Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lady of the Manor of Knapton, Norfolk, grants to Agnes, widow of William Paston, the right of removing obstructions in two watercourses belonging to the mill called Woodmyll in Bacton; the first of which watercourses flows out of Knapton fen, and the second from the mill of the Abbot of St. Benet's, of Holme, Stratford of the Bowe, 15th Aug., 1463, 3 Edward IV."

(KNAPTON).

(Letter XCIII. Introduction).

A.D. 1479, 19 July.

William Paston to Henry Waryns.⁵⁶

" Harry Waryns, I grete you well, and I thank you for youre labour. And as for the tenauntez of Knapton, I understand by youre writing that they take non oder consideration to my sendyng but that I call so fast on my fee, for cause they thynke that I am aferd lest I shuld have it no longer ; and as for that, I pray you tell them for ther ungentilness that I woll have my fee of them, and in that maner and in non oder place ; and ferthermor I shall fynd the mene that they shall paye it more hastely here after. And as for the money that they offyr to pay at the fest of Advincula Sancti Petri, receyve ye it off them and I shall assign one to receyve it azen of yow. As for the delivere of the catell, I fele be zowr wrytyng they will non souner pay if thow ther catell shuld dye ffor ffawte off mete. Wer for, affor the money be paid I put that in zour discreseon wheder ze will deliver them or nay ; as ze do I hold me content."

(No. 843). A.D. 1479, Nov.—Jullye to his Father.

(Paston MSS. B.M.).

" Well beloved fader, my master prayed you that ye will sende knowlach by me broder as sone as these men be come to Knapton, and that he may lay a weche to knowe ho sone they be come, and send me be your sone ar else be some other trusty man ; and I have take your son a grote for his labour. And do this in haste ; for wheder they com or nat I wille take a distresse ther, and thatt will abide till I knowe the dealing of them this ij ar iij days for to knowe wheder they wille come or nat, and ther after shall I be demeaned.

" Endorsed in Wm. Paston's hand—A letter fro — Jullye, clark of Sent Edmundes, to his fadyr, to North Walsham, th — day Novembr', anno XIX."

(No. 844). Manor of Knapton. (Paston MSS. B.M.).

" This is a paper of memoranda in the handwriting of Wm. Paston, endorsed " A mater tochyng Knapton for my fee."

" Mr. Thomas Pasche of Wynsoner toke the estate and retorne to the Dean and Colage of Wynsoor *infra Castrum*.

And one—Holme, atornay off Corte, is recognis (?) and was at stat takyn.

Robert Walsch off Colby j. myl. et di' fro Blyklyng is Steward.

Here folow revys of Knapton :—

⁵⁶. This letter evidently refers to a case of Knapton cattle impounded by Paston's servants.

Fro M. xvij. till xviiij, Martin Smyth.

F(ro) M. xviiij till xix^o, Roberd Fraunk (?), his place bonde.

Fro M. xix till xxo, Thomas Frank, his place fre."

There is an allusion to Knapton in a Latin poem entitled "The Earl of Oxford's Steward to the "*Black Knight*" (No. 948). "The Black Knight was probably the later Sir John Paston . . . whose services the earl of Oxford continually made use of. The manor of Knapton came to John, 12th earl of Oxford, who died in 1462, by his marriage with Elizabeth, grand-daughter of Sir John Howard."

CHAPTER II.

FIELD NAMES FROM THE TITHE MAPS.

GIMINGHAM (1839). ACREAGE, 1,490. WATER, 3.
FORESHORE, 13. (GLEBE, 32.2.2).

Beef Close.

Bell Rope Piece, near the Church.

Blacksmith's Close.

Bloggs Heath, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, adjoining Lanternmansloke.

Blue Clarks, on the Trimmingham road and boundary.

Boydells, 1st and 2nd, between Gimingham and Trimmingham.

Bottom Close.

Bullan Buck, on the Trunch boundary.

Burnt Close, Great and Little.

Caisters, Great, Little and Lower, behind the Rectory.

Chantry Piece. (For position see map).

Cockman's, 1st and 2nd, on the cliff.

Cook's Hill four acres.

Cox's Close.

Crossway Piece, near the Mill Hill. Ditto, near the Pound.

Crow's Close.

Cubitt's, Great and Little.

Dam Meadow, Great. }
Dam Pightle, Great. } West of the Church.

Dove House Close, on the cliff.

Fen Close, First Great, Further Great, Little and Upper Little.

Fold Close barn and six acres, meadow East of the Church.

Fox-burrow, Great and Little, near Mill Hill.

Furze Meadow, East of the Church.

Gallows Hill. (See map).

Gimingham Pightle, Further and Middle, Glebe.

Gipsey Piece, on "South Repps Heath."

Glebe Pightle, the Glebe, etc.

Gogle's Pightle, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, between the two lanes from
Gimingham to Trimmingham.

Gooch's Pightle.

Granary Piece, with a detached strip, West of the road to the Pound.

Grave Pightle, second field on the right of the road from the Pound
to South Repps.

Gravel Pit Close.

Grove Close, Little.

Heath Piece, Heath Pightle, and South Repps Heath, on the road from South Repps to Trimingham.

Hill Pym.

Hinde's Piece, and Six Acres.

Holly Five Acres, on South Repps and Trunch road.

Home Close.

Howard's Hill, partly in Trunch.

Howard's Pightle, near Trimingham.

Hulver Bush (*i.e.* Holly Bush), Nine Acres.

Iron Snacks, on the cliff partly in Gimingham and partly in Trimingham.

King's Piece, the, adjoining "John of Gaunt's House." Sometimes called the Eight Acres.

Landguard Hill and Pightles, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, between the lane to Trimingham Beacon and the Crown and Anchor Inn.

Loke Piece, Upper and Lower.

Long Pightle and Six Acres, Glebe.

Lord's Meadow, East of the Mill Pond and North of the Church.

Lord's Quarters, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and Further. (See map).

Marl Hole Pightle.

Milem's Piece.

Mill Dam Close, First.

Mill Hill Close.

Mill Four, Six, and Seven Acres.

Packway Pightle.

Par Piece, opposite Crown and Anchor Inn. [*Par* from parroch, a paddock, Skeat. *Par-yard* = cow-yard.]

Park Close.

Park Piece, Upper and Lower.

Parson's Close, 5.2.30, Glebe.

Peggs Dyke, and Upper and Lower ditto, in the angle where the lane from Trimingham meets Lanternmansloke. (See the Richard III. Rental).

Plumbly's Three and Four Acres.

Rabbit Hill Close.

Sandhill Close.

Sandy Meadow.

Sawing Pits, partly Glebe.

Seaside Seven Acres.

Sermon Acre, 1.1.2, Glebe. (See Mundesley Field Names).

Sharpes.

Shickle's Piece.

Spring Four Acres, Meadow East of the Church.
 Table Piece, on Lanternman's Loke.
 Thoroughfare, on Trunch and South Repps road.
 Thoroughfare, 2nd, Glebe.
 Three-cornered Pightle.
 Town House Close. (See map).
 Trimingham Lane Seven Acres, Glebe.
 Wrong Deal, on the left of the road from the Pound to Mundesley.

LANES.

Landguard Lane, from Gimingham to Trimingham Beacon.
 Gilham's Lane, leading to the farm formerly belonging to George Gryme, and now the property of Mr. Collier.
 Lanternman's¹ Loke, from Gimingham to the South Repps and Trimingham road, joining it at the point where the fields are described as "South Repps Heath."
 Fen Lane.

KNAPTON (1840). ACREAGE, 1460.3.29. (NO GLEBE).

Allison's Four Acres.
 Backhouse Pightle.
 Backway Three Acres.
 Baker's Twelve Acres.
 Barn Close.
 Barnard's Meadow, 1st, and Further.
 Bartram's Close.
 Bench Close.
 Black Acre, 6.2.23, a strip-shaped field lying two fields South of the Knapton and Trunch road.
 Blank's Piece.
 Bolt's Close.
 Bradford's Piece.
 Bremen Hill.

1. Doubtless this lane was reputed to be haunted by the Will of the Wisp or Lantern Man, of whom Mr. Rye writes: "The Will of the Wisp, better known as Jack of Lanterns, Lantern Jack, or Lantern Man, in East Norfolk, not satisfied with haunting the hundred and one fens and broads, has an unpleasant habit of following the wayfarer home and lighting up his windows from the outside. He is said to be awfully angry if you cross the meadows at night with a lantern. Once I heard of one following a man while he was carrying a lantern one night. 'The man knew what to do. He set the lantern down and ran away as if the devil kicked him. When he ventured to look round there was the Lantern Man kicking the lantern over and over again.'"—*The Eastern Counties Collectanea*, p. 2. [1872-3].

Brickground Close.

Bride's Piece, 9.2.25, lying North of the Knapton and Trunch roads and West of the Mundesley road, and adjoining several large fields, which show traces of open-field cultivation.

Buck's Pightle.

Bullock's Pightle.

Burgess, 1st, and Further.

Burrow Hill, and adjoining it Frery's Burrow Hill.

Calves' Close, 1st and 2nd.

Chandler's Close.

Cherry Tree Piece.

Church Close and Pightle.

Clamp Close.

Claydon's Close.

Claypit Close.

College² Five Acres.

Cooper's Herne, second field on the right of the Knapton and North Walsham road.

Craft.

Croft, The.

Crome's Close.

Crossway Six Acres, evidently at the end of one of the open fields.

Crossway Piece, ditto.

Deadman's Grave, 4.1.6, on the Paston boundary at the corner of the turning to Edingthorpe (cf. in Edingthorpe, Blood Lane, and Battle Corner). Two fields further South another piece is also named Deadman's Grave.

Dobson's Pightle.

Dodbush, partly in Trunch.

Down Hill Pightle.

Field, the North Field of Knapton.

Traces of the North Field clearly remain. The following fields lye in a group North of the Knapton and Trunch road.

- { Field, The.
- { Field, 1st, and Further Lower.
- { Field, 1st, and Further Upper.
- { Field, North, Pightle.

(Adjoining these are the Crossway fields already given, and Thorofare, see below).

Folly, The.

Fox Holes, 1st, and Further.

2. St. Peter's College, Cambridge, owned something over 200 acres in Knapton.

- Glebe Piece, 1.1.34, owned by Selina Shirley. The rector of Knapton owns no glebe.
- Grove Close.
- Great Stone Hills.
- Green Lane Four Acres.
- Heath Five Acres, on the Paston boundary.
- Heath Six Acres, and 1st and Further, ditto.
- Hill Close.
- Howes Piece.
- Kemp's Pightle.
- King's Close, 6.1.19, on the Mundesley road, at the South corner of the turning to Stow Hill.
- King's Pightle, 1st and Further, South of the above.
- Knapton Ten Acres.
- Lands, the (Arable).
- Long Furlong, Lower and Upper.
- Loak Six Acres.
- Many Ways, North of road from Gimingham Pound to Mundesley.
- Marl Pit Piece.
- Miles Pightle.
- Morter's Piece.
- Mount, the New, a strip of 1.3.14 lying among nine other strips.
- Mount, the Old, a field of 3.3.24, lying West of the strips.
- Mount, the Lower and the Upper.
- Mundesley Pightle.
- New Close, 1st, and Further.
- New Cross Piece, on the Knapton and North Walsham road, at the Edingthorpe turning.
- North Meadow.
- Oak Close.
- Oystern Bridge Meadow, adjoining Oystern Bridge, on the North Walsham boundary.
- Parr Piece.
- Path Meadow, and 1st, and Further Path Piece.
- Pet Piece, on the Trunch boundary.
- Pigneys, Lower and Upper.
- Pigneys Meadow and Piece.
- Pithole Piece.
- Playford's.
- Rabbits Mount.
- Reynold's Close (2).
- River Pightle.
- Rush Meadow, 1st and Further.
- Small Hopes, near Swafeld and North Walsham boundary.

South Meadow.

Strawberry Hill, partly in Paston.

Street Pightle.

Thorofare, 1st, and Further, North of the North Field; a footpath still runs through it.

Three-cornered Pightle, at the fork of the Mundesley road.

Well Close.

Well Sacks, on the second road from Knapton to North Walsham.

Wortley's Five, Six and Ten Acres.

Young's Meadow.

MUNDESLEY (1838). ACREAGE, *circa* 605 (GLEBE, at the present day, 1.3.22).

Bacon's Close.

Barn Piece.

Buddell Close, scattered pieces of arable and pasture on the cliff near the Trimmingham boundary and owned by various persons. (Now lost in the sea).

Carey Lands.

Church Piece and Pightle.

Collinsons, 1st, 2nd, and Great.

Cox's Thorofare.

Craft, Long and Little West.

Cromer Way Pightle.

Deves Craft.

Eades Craft, Long, Little and Middle.

Eades Cross, on the Gimingham lane.

Field Piece.

Fox Hill, Long, Little, Four and Six Acres (partly lost in the sea).

Gimingham Piece.

Goose Close, Upper and Lower.

Heath Close and Pightle.

Home Close.

Hughes, Great and Little.

King's House Close, stretching down to the beck.

Lands, the (partly lost in the sea).

Littlewood, 1st, 2nd, and Further.

Long Lands Piece.

Mack's Pightle.

Mare Pightle.

Mill Pightle.

Mundesley Seven Acres.

Newman's Piece.

Newstead's Piece.

Parsonage Yards Land.

Patch, The.

Purse Hill.

Rudram's, Great and Little, Close and Pightle.

Rump's Hill, a very curious irregular shape.

Russell's Pightle.

Sandgall Pightle.

Sandy Lane Close.

Sea Pightle.

Seaside Piece.

Sermon Acre. Originally, this field name must have come from a benefaction to endow an annual sermon, but no particulars of the donor or the terms of the endowment remain. Zachary Clark describes it in 1811 as being "1 A. of Land, called Sermon Acre, in an inclosure belonging to Joshua Bacon, the produce of which, 10s. 6d., used to be given yearly to the Poor in bread, but this gift has been stopped for many years."³ Some years later the Charity Commissioners reported that the land had been sold to William Barcham, subject to an annual payment of 10s. 6d. for the poor of Mundesley. They note the fact that this money was allowed to accumulate for several years, and was then distributed to the poor in bread, clothing, or coals, "with other money collected at the Sacrament or raised by subscription under direction of the overseers."⁴

Shreves Close. This field name probably comes from the surname Shreve, though possibly the field may have been originally charged with certain dues to the Sheriff or Shreeve.

Ship Pightle (now lost in the sea).

Sizeland Close.

Sping Pightle.

Stone Hills.

Thicksons.

Towns End.

Town Meadow and Town Meadow Pightle.

Ward's Close.

Watt's Hill, 1st and 2nd.

Watchhouse Pightle.

Well Hill, Upper and Lower, and Pightle.

Westcraft and Westcraft Pightle.

Wrigh Hill.

3. *An Account of the Charities belonging to the Poor of the County of Norfolk*, p. 146.

4. See the folio *Report of the Charity Commissioners*.

LANES.

Craft Lane.
 Heath Lane.
 Townsend Lane.
 Water Lane.

NORTH REPPS (1839). ACREAGE, 2731.1.16.
 (GLEBE, 12.1.34).

Amos Pightle (2).
 Anchor Piece, 1st and 2nd.
 Archers.
 Backhouse Close.
 Bacon's Close.
 Barn Close.
 Bean Stubble, 1st.
 Bennetts, 1st and 2nd.
 Bird's Piece.
 Blackdale, 1st, Further, etc.
 Blofield's 1st, and Further.
 Boundary Close.
 Bowden's Pightle.
 Broadgate, on Tolls Hill Lane. (The existing Almshouses are locally called Broadgates).
 Brooms, Lower and Upper.
 Broom Stalk.
 Burnt Pightle.
 Car Lane Three Acres, 1st and 2nd.
 Car Piece, Upper, and Cutters Knoll. (9.2.28).
 Church's Ten Acres.
 Clamp Close.
 Clannels, Upper.
 Clump Piece.
 Coleby's, Upper.
 Cold Field, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. North of the road from North Repps Village to Pond Street.
 Cold Field Land, an unenclosed strip now the road to Pond Street.
 Cook's Close.
 Cooper's Close.
 Copeman's Three Acres.
 Copt Hill Piece.
 Cork's Close and Five Acres.
 Craft, The.

Croft Hill.

Curtis' Field.

Damsels, Lower and Upper, at Frog's Hall ("Kerry's Stables," are in Lower Damsels).

Davidson's Pightle.

Delland Two and Three Acres: Long and Further Pightle, etc., round Frog's Hall Farm.

Dennis Pightle.

Ellis' Pightle, 1st and 2nd.

Field, Great and Little, on the road from North Repps to Thorpe Market.

Five Rood.

Fox burrows.

Fox hill Three Acres.

Furze Close, Grounds and Hill.

Grave Holes, Grave Hole Land and Plantation, North of the road from the village to Pond Street.

Gray's Eight Acres.

Gregory's Pightle.

Hall Meadow, in the town meadows.

Hatchet Pightle.

Heater Close.

Heath Close, Five Acres, Pightle, etc.

Hellgates, on Hatchet Loke. A large field with a pond at the North end.

Hickman's Folly, on the brow of the hill from Hungry Hill to the Mill. Hickman or Hickleman's Folly is famous as the scene of a conflict between coastguards and smugglers. Hickman was the leader of the preventive men, and if tradition is right he got very much the worst of the fight. The late Mr. John Gray, of Hungry Hill, aged 88, told me that "at that time o' day the smugglers used to lie up in the deek and watch for the boat lying off Beck Hythe [Overstrand]. The women went along, too, and there was a vault in the old garden in Church's Loke, and another in the planting on Stone Hills." John Gray never went smuggling himself—"I never got the chance"—but his father and his grandfather and grandmother did, and were well paid for the job, and most of the houses took in barrels of gin.

Higgins.

Hill Close.

Hills, Old.

Hills, The.

Hobgates, Great and Little, on the Dams road from Sidestrand to South Repps.

- Holly Five Acres.
 Hungry Hill, Great and Little.
 Jerhomes, Seven and Eight Acres, near the Thorpe boundary.
 Larks Pightle.
 Leech Pit.
 Lingwoods, (2).
 Long Pightle, and Two Acres.
 Mary Ann's Close and Pightle, between the village and Pond Street.
 Mill Land, opposite the Rectory.
 Neats Plantation.
 Northrepps Close.
 Oakhills, Great and Little.
 Oakyards.
 Orchard Close.
 Overstrand Close.
 Pardon's Close.
 Park Piece, on the footpath skirting Overstrand.
 Parsonage Close and Pightle, behind the Rectory.
 Parson's Close, small meadow North-West of the Rectory.
 Parson's Pightle.
 Porch Close, opposite (Poynings) Manor Farm, Sidestrand.
 Powl's Close.
 Priest's Pightle, 4.3.21, on Tolls Hill Lane.
 Puttock's Croft.
 Rotten Meadow.
 Roundabouts.
 Rush Meadow and Pightle.
 Rutlands, Lower and Upper.
 Sallow Pightle.
 Sally Bean Plantation, at the corner of the road turning to Hill House.
 Sandhole Piece.
 Sawpit Close.
 Scarles.
 Scotter's Close.
 Scratchams, and Great, and Pightle, on the Cromer boundary, near the Norwich road.
 Shrieking Pits, adjoining the Shrieking Pits, Hungry Hill. These ponds are supposed to be haunted by a woman, who drowned herself in the larger one, which is reputed to have no bottom. Once a cart and horse were sent there to clear out the mud, and they both went right down to the bottom and disappeared!
 Sidestrand Glebe, 1a., part of Sir Samuel Hoare's Larch Plantation.
 Silver Pit, on the road from North Repps to Thorpe Market.

Small Hopes (Arable) and Small Hopes Hill (furze).
 Smugglers Grove.
 Spanton's Pightle.
 Stable Piece.
 Stone Hills and Stone Hill Piece.
 Street Five Acres.
 Sycamores.
 Thompson's Piece.
 Thornhill.
 Tolls Hill, Great, Little and Pightle.
 Town Piece, 5.3.0, on the North Repps to South Repps road.
 Tungate Pightle, North of Major Bullard's Farm.
 Walk, the, 1.0.7. Now known as North Repps Avenue and a public road. At the date of the Tithe Map it was enclosed by gates.
 Wash Pit.
 Water Slads, 1st, and Further, North of the North Repps and Sidestrand Road.
 Wrong Close, on the road to Pond Street.
 Yeomans Plantation.

LANES.

[Madam Lane, not in the Tithe Schedule, but a local name still in use for the lane from the village to Ivy Farm, Overstrand. It is called after an old Mrs. Playford, who used to walk along it frequently to see a friend at Ivy Farm.]

Cold Field Lane, the road to Pond Street.
 Delland Lane, the grass lane South of the Rectory.
 Page's or Church's Lane, Hungry Hill.
 Pooley's Lane or Gypsies Loke, Hungry Hill.
 Shrieking Pit Lane, leading to Hatchet Loke.

SOUTH REPPS (1839). ACREAGE, 2,050. (GLEBE,
 12 ACRES).

N.B.—Traces of common agriculture are especially noticeable in the land lying between the two sections of the village—Upper and Lower Street—where much of it still shows signs of selionation. Just North of Lower Street there is a group of strips of about 1a. each—Garden Pightle, Harmer's Pightle, Home Pightle, Middle Pightle and Temple's Pightle. Other instances will be found in the following list, besides a reference to the South Field, to the Park and to the Hundred Hill of Tunstead.

- Allen's.
 Apple Tree Pightle.
 Baker's, Matthew.
 Baxter's 1st, and Further.
 Bean's Piece.
 Bear's Hurn, the third field on the South side of Spongs Lane behind South Repps Hall.
 Bell Stile Close, East of Manor Farm.
 Bletters, 1st, Further, Upper and Lower.
 Bloom's Meadow, behind the Schools.
 Boundary Close, (2) on the North Repps and Sidestrand boundaries.
 Bretts Hill.
 Burnt Yard Eight Acres.
 Church Close and Five Acres.
 Clamp Close and Pightle.
 Clamp Pightle (No. 2), an enclosed selion or strip on the West of the road from South Repps to Sidestrand.
 Clickett Close.
 Common Pightle, on the Common, North of the Bradfield Road.
 Cookman's Piece, one of several strips between Upper Street and Lower Street, showing traces of open field cultivation.
 Copt Hill Piece, party in North Repps.
 Cottage Nine Acres.
 Cromer Four Acres and Cromer Road Four Acres.
 Crown Four and Five Acres.
 Dam Four Acres, on the Sidestrand boundary, adjoining Clapping or Clapham Dams, a name which occurs very frequently in the Court Rolls, etc.
 Dellands, Further, on the North Repps boundary.
 Doll's Acre, near Frogs Hall Farm.
 Foreclose, opposite South Repps Hall.
 Foxes Meadow and Pightle, near the Schools.
 Furze Hill.
 Furze Ground Nine Acres and Pightle.
 Garden Pightle, one of a group of strips North of Lower Street.
 Gays.
 Glover's Four Acres, now part of Church Close.
 Hall's Hill.
 Hardingham Four Acres.
 Harmer's Pightle, one of a group of strips North of Lower Street.
 Hill Three Acres, etc.
 Hole Five Acres. }
 Holses. } near the G.E.R. and Thorpe Wood.
 Horse Close, behind Painter's Farm.

Hulver Bush Eight Acres, 1st ditto, and Nine Acres.

Hundred Hill Piece, partly in Bradfield. The site of Tunstead Hundred Hill was situated in Bradfield. See page 336.

Kiln Close Piece, (2) and Thorofare.

Long Entry, on the Roughton road, divided by the G.E.R.

Long Five Acres.

Lubbock's Three Acres, a strip of about 3a. in the centre of the group of strips between Upper and Lower Streets.

Marlpit Piece.

Marsham's Dale, between the Manor Farm and the Town Pieces.

Mason's Nine Acres.

Mayes Piece.

Meeting House Four Acres, near the old Nonconformist Graveyard in Smuggler's Grove.

Middle Pightle, one of the group of strips between Upper and Lower Street.

Mill Meadow and Pightle, near the site of the Mill, North of the Bradfield road.

New Close, behind Limekiln Farm.

New Twelve Acres.

North Repps Five Acres.

Old House Close.

Old Woman's Pightle, North of South Repps Lodge.

Old Twelve Acres.

Owls' Pightle.

Park, 1st (2) and Further, East and North-East of Painter's Farm.

They evidently formed part of the Park of Gimingham, the fields lying on the same slope of the valley as does Gimingham Hall, which is but half-a-mile further East of these fields.

Pasture, The.

Patch, The (2).

Path Pightle.

Plough Share, half in North Repps.

Plum Pudding Thorofare, on Plum Pudding Lane, a private lane running behind the small farm at the end of Church Lane.

Pottergate Fifteen Acres, part of the land in front of Painter's Farm.

The fields here have been re-arranged, but Pottergate lay to the South-East of the Farm and ended in a small wood, now cut down. It was crossed by a footpath to Stump Cross.

Repps Heath Wood, now known as Thorpe Wood, and famous in the annals of shooting on the Gunton Estate.

Rotten Meadow.

Sandy Lane Nine Acres, etc.

School House Close (7.3.30), a large field crossed by the footpath to Sidestrand. I can find no connection with a school to account for its name, and there is certainly no school within two miles of it.

Sexton's Piece.

Smugglers' Grove, Great, Little, Four and Six Acres.

South Field Three Acres and Plantation, between South Repps Hall and the G.E.R., and partly severed by the railway. It was evidently the boundary end of the South Open Field of the parish.

Spong Lane Six Acres.

Spring Eight Acres.

Stack Close.

Stileway Four Acres, 1st and Further.

Stump Cross Ten Acres, Six Acres and Ten Acres, respectively situated North-East, South-East, and South-West of the four cross roads known as Stump Cross.

Summer's Ten Acres.

Thorofare Close and Pightle.

Town Close, allotments South of the road from South Repps to Trunch.

Town Piece, Upper and Lower, between Manor Farm and the village.

Tubby's Close, the fourth field on the South side of Spong Lane.

Turf ground, on the common.

Walnut Tree Piece, near Manor Farm.

Well Pightle.

Well Springs.

Winspurs, Six, Ten and Eleven Acres, on or near Winspurs Lane, *i.e.* the Cromer and North Walsham road.

Woodmeadow.

Woodwell.

LANES.

Baxter's Lane, West of Bletters' Lane.

Bletters' Lane, from G.E.R. bridge to the Sandy Lane.

Burnt House Lane, South of the Hall.

Copt Hill Lane, the beginning of "Sweet Briar Lane," Gunton.

Crown Lane, behind the Inn.

Hardingham's Lane, crossing the Common to the station.

Plum Pudding Lane, a private lane behind the small farm at the South Repps end of Sandy Lane.

Repps Heath Lane, the continuation of Street Lane.

Sandy Lane, from South Repps to North Repps, *via* Smugglers' Grove.

Smugglers' Grove, or Meeting House Lane, with a disused Nonconformist burial ground in it.

Spong Lane, North of the Hall.

Spring Lane, North from Stump Cross.

Street Lane, from the village to the Common.

Winspurs' Lane, from Thorpe Market to Cromer.

COMMONS.

Low Street Common, 1.2.12, by the pond and rough ground.

School Common, 31.1.30, near the School.

Mill Common, 2.1.12, on the Bradfield road.

Total, 35.1.14.

SIDESTRAND (1838). ACREAGE, 445.0.33 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁵. FORE-
SHORE, 86. (GLEBE, 2.2.2 $\frac{1}{2}$)⁵.

Amis's Pightle.

Barn Close, Piece, etc.

Byswell, Great, Little and Further. All around the common ground of Boyeswell, which was the cause of endless disputes in the 16th century, between the family of Gryme, who attempted to enclose it, and the people of Sidestrand, who claimed it as common.

Carr's Hill, on the cliff immediately behind the cottages on the lane to the old Churchyard. In 1838 it was 8.0.16 $\frac{1}{2}$, now it is less than a quarter of that extent.

Church Close, formerly surrounding and extending beyond the old Church. In 1838 it was 8.3.24, now hardly anything is left of it, large landslips in 1915-16 having been especially destructive. Further Church Close immediately beyond it has begun to share the same fate.

Clarke's Piece, next to the cricket ground, and the site of the Clarke's house. Also called "Mill Close."

Claypit Close, on the Trimmingham boundary on the cliff.

Cliff Four Acres, 3.3.34, now lost.

Cliff Four Acres (2), now reduced to half its size.

5. Both greatly reduced by landslips since 1838.

Cliff Piece, 2r. 34p., now lost.

Cliff Three Acres, 2.1.16, practically lost.

Cliff Land, 2r. 35p., beyond Carr's Hill, now lost.

Cocks Piece.

Coney Borough, 2.0.28½, in 1838, now only a tiny strip between the sea and the new houses owned by Mrs. Pulley and others. It is the ancient boundary of the Manor of Sidestrand Poynings. In old documents Coneyborough *Hill* is usually spoken of, but the hill has long since gone into the sea.

Corner Pightle (or Under Acre), now part of the large field in front of the Hall.

Craft or Croft.

Cross Close, at the end of the Sea Loke and possibly the headland of an open field.

Doghouse Close, between Sidestrand Hall and the cliff.

Dovehouse Piece, adjoining the old Dovecote and now partly covered by new plantations.

Fore Close, now the cricket ground.

Furze Hill, now lost.

Garden Close.

Gazell Pits, the second field south of the Sea Loke. (? Gay's Well; there is a pit or pond in it).

Gravel Pit Close.

Gray's Close (or Gun House Piece), now part of the large field in front of the Hall.

Gray's Piece, between Tower Lane and the cliff.

Heater Meadow, part of.

Hill Piece.

Hobgates, Great and Little, partly in North Repps, on the Dams Lane.

Home Two Acres, etc.

Hundred Acres (2), tiny patches of 1r. 17p. and 21p., at the angle of the Trimingham road and Dams Lane, and on Dams Lane.

Knoll Three Acres.

Lands, the, grass lands on the cliff, now lost.

Light Lands.

Long Seven and Three Acres.

Loke Close, and Little ditto.

Madgetts, 1.2.0, now only a small strip on the Trimingham boundary on the cliff. Probably called after one of the Matchett family, *q.v.*

Mould Close, Great and Little.

Orchard Close.

Pack Piece, on the Trimingham boundary on the cliff, practically lost.

Padlocks, crossed by the footpath to Pond Farm.

Patch.

Robinson's Piece and Pit Three Acres.

Round Hills, 10.2.20, on the cliff, now reduced to a small field of about 3a., with *one* small round rough hill on the sea side of it.

Sea Piece, on the cliff.

Stable Close.

Tompsons, Upper and Lower.

Well Pightle.

White Gate Field (or Whitegates), East of the Hall plantations.

Winding Five and Six Acres, called by John Gray the "Winding Fallents."

In 1838 there was 1.2.0 of Glebe and 3r. 10p. of Churchyard, but very little remains of either. A very small strip of Glebe marked on the Tithe Map, and obviously originally part of an Open Field has now been merged in Tompsons. Apparently a path or loke led up to it in those days. There are small quantities of Sidestrand Glebe in North Repps and Trimingham, and the Sidestrand people have 2r. of Poor Land in the latter place.

TRIMINGHAM (1839). ACREAGE, 525.0.21. GLEBE,
2.0.18.

Archery Ground (glebe), a strip of 17p. East of the Churchyard, and doubtless once used for shooting butts for the parishioners.⁶

Blackberry Hall and lands.

Blue Clarks, partly in Gimingham.

Buck Heath, near Long's Hill Plantation.

Burning Mountain Plantation.

Butterfly Land, a 30p. strip, and Butterfly Piece, a field South East of the cottage East of the Beacon.

Button Stalls, near Hulver Hill Plantation.

Bysteads.

6. Cf. *Before the Great Pillage*, Jessopp, p. 28, N. "There is a long strip of land immediately adjoining the north boundary of the churchyard of Beeston-next-Mileham, in Norfolk, which was formerly the practising ground for the young archers of the parish. It is still called *the butts*, and is, if I mistake not, still parish land."

- Byswell, and Further Byswell, partly in Sidestrand.
 Carr Piece.
 Claypit Pightle, partly in Sidestrand.
 Cliff Piece, part of.
 Culvers, the, and Little Culver Pightle, on South Repps road.
 Duffers, part of.
 Furze Hills.
 Gants, Lower, Middle and Upper, behind the Rectory bungalow
 (? Gaunts).
 Grays Yard, Grays Yard Lands and Pightle between the village and
 the sea; the latter is nearly all lost.
 Hags Close, 2.2.27, now lost in the sea.
 Heath, Old, Heath Pightle and South Repps Heath, all on the
 Trimingham and South Repps boundary. Now arable land.
 Hogs Grave, 6.2.28, on the cliff, but more than half has been lost.
 Hulver Hill.
 Hurn Piece.
 Iron Snacks, on the cliff, partly in Gimingham. [? Ide Snack's, cf.
 Rental of Richard III.].
 Landguards, on the road from the Beacon to Gimingham.
 Madgett's, on the cliff, partly in Sidestrand.
 Market Close, near Blackberry Hall.
 Mill Piece and Pightle.
 Mole Hills.
 Morris Pightle, 1.1.22, partly lost.
 Old Way Close, adjoining South Repps Heath.
 Pack Pightle, partly in Sidestrand.
 Parson's Yard, on which the Rectory bungalow is built. (? The
 site of the Old Rectory).
 Penny Pightle, 26p., with house, barn, garden, etc., on the cliff,
 practically all lost.
 Pitcher Pightle, 2r. 31p., lost.
 Plain Piece.
 Poor House (unoccupied), now lost.
 Rippers, the, east of Blackberry Hall.
 Roper's Pightle and Wood, 1st, Lower and Middle.
 Sidestrand Pightle.
 Station Pightle, North of the Beacon.
 Stileham.
 Three corner Piece.
 Townlands, 6.0.15, with the Sidestrand Poor or Town Land in
 its centre.
 Townland meadow, a patch in Byswell.

Townsend, Great and Little, west of Gray's Yard.

Tulley's Hole.

Watch House Piece.

White Cross Pightle, at the angle of the sea lane and main road.

Willow Green, and Upper ditto.

(Gimingham Glebe, 1.1.17. Sidestrand Glebe, 1a.).

TRUNCH (1839). ACREAGE, 1354.3.35. GLEBE, 23.1.17.

Alder Car Meadow.

Allen's Meadow.

Ash Bush Two Acres.

Bacon's Pightle.

Birch Close and Field.

Birch Tree Pightle.

Bones Pightle.

Bottom Close.

Bradfield Close.

Bullace Bush.

Bullocks Pightle.

Bursesnap Four Acres, Hill and Little Hill.

Callow Close.

Calves Close.

Cherry Six Acres.

Colman's Meadow.

Corner Five Acres.

Dodbridge, on Swafield boundary, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Dodbridge Pightles, small oblongs near the village. (The remains of a Common Field are apparent, Rabbits Close and Hemp Land forming part of it).

Dodbush Five Acres, partly in Knapton.

Elder Bush.

Ell Pightle.

England's Meadow.

Fen Meadow.

Field, Little.

Fisher's Piece.

Fox holes, Further, partly in Knapton.

Furlong, 1st, and Further, 2a. strips.

Furze Close.

Gardener's Close.

- Goose Meadow, 2r. (? the *Goosewong* of the Court Rolls).
 Gorril Hill Meadow.
 Gray's Piece.
 Green Pightle.
 Grove Close.
 Hangman's Hill, 7.0.6, South of the Bradfield road.
 Harby Lands.
 Heath Close.
 Hemp Land, on the Swafield road.
 Holme Close.
 Howard's Bush Nine Acres and Howard's Hole Seven and Eight Acres.
 Howes Setch (and Sitch) Croft.
 Hulver Bush, 1st, Further and Eight Acres.
 Hundred Mire Piece, partly in Swafield. The name suggests a large Open Field divided by many mire or mere balks.
 Ingham Close.
 Kemp's Meadow.
 Knapton Pightle.
 Lady's Meadow, Great and Little, South of the Mundesley road.
 Mill Hill Pightle.
 Mount, the.
 Mundesley Pightle.
 Ned's Six Acres.
 Newton's Meadow.
 Oak yard.
 Old Heath Pightle and Six Acres.
 Old Shed Pightle.
 Orchard Pightle.
 Packway Pightle.
 Palmer's Close, on the Mundesley road. The field is probably called after the surname of a former owner, though it might possibly be connected with palmers or pilgrims on their way to Bromholm Priory.
 Penny Gate, Penny Gate Pightles and Fifteen Acres, South West of the village and all on or near Southern road to South Repps. The Pightles are four little fields of just over 1a. each. The Penny Gate appears to have been on the way to South Repps, whilst the
 Pottergate (and Pottergate Seven Acres) was on the Bradfield road.
 Pennyman's Acre, South of the Knapton road.
 Rabbit's Close, on the Swafield boundary.
 Reynolds' Close and Pightle.
 Sallow Bush.

Sandale Close and Pightle.

Sandylane Piece.

Sawing Pits.

Sharps.

Sheep Close.

Sitch Croft, Lower.

Spring Piece and Twelve Acres.

Stile Pightle.

Stonehill, Great and Little.

Thorn Bush.

Thorofare Piece.

Townmeadow Pightle, on the Mundesley boundary.

Trunch Five Acres, on the Knapton boundary.

Vane Close.

Walsham Ten Acres.

Ward's Meadow and Eight Acres.

Warren Piece, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Further and Plantation, all round the
Coverts, which doubtless formed part of the lord of Gimingham's free warren.

Weight Field.

Woodstall.

Young's.

LANES.

Meadow Lane (Bradfield road).

Mill Lane.

Ward's Lane.

Wortley's Lane.

Note.—On examining the map of Trunch one is struck by the traces of Open Field cultivation, and one can easily imagine the lines of a North, South and West Field.

Part IV.

THE CHURCH IN THE SOKE.

CHAPTER I.

CHURCH ENDOWMENTS AND PAYMENTS.

GIMINGHAM.

In Domesday Book we read that Gimingham had one church with 28 acres. Earl Warenne, the first, granted the advowson to his Priory of Lewes, which he also endowed with 40s., of soccage rent from the Soke of Gimingham, the monks of Lewes also having an annual pension of 5 marks out of the rectory, which was "confirmed to them by John de Oxford, Bishop of Oxford."¹

"The old valor was 15 marks; and the rector had in the reign of Edward I. a manse, with 24 acres of land."²

Most churches in Pre-Reformation times were charged with certain fixed annual payments of Peter's Pence to Rome, besides contributions to various Religious Houses. In addition to the sums granted to the Priory of Lewes out of the rectory, Gimingham also contributed Peter's Pence 12d., tithe, £4 2s., with 12s. deducted. Temporalities of Bromholm, £2.

A controversy over the tithes, between the rectors of Gimingham and Trimingham is described on a later page.

KNAPTON.

The old value of the living of Knapton was 18 marks. Peter's Pence 5d.

Temporalities of Bromhill Priory, £1 14s. 3¼d. [It will be remembered that Knapton was a fee of the de Plays family, the founders of Bromhill Priory, Weeting].

1. Blomefield, Vol. VIII., p. 125.

2. *Ibid.*

MUNDESLEY.

Domesday Book tells us that Mundesley had a church with 12 acres. "In the reign of Edward I. the rector had a competent house, with an acre and 30 perches of ground, also 12 acres of land: it was valued at 15 marks."³

Peter's Pence, 13d.

Temporalities of St. Benet's of Holm, £4 11s. 0½d.

Temporalities of Bromholm, 14s. 1d.

NORTH REPPS.

Domesday Book mentions one church with 18 acres in North Repps. "In the reign of Edward I. the rector is said to have edifices and 4 acres of land. The valor was 30 marks . . . In the fourth year of Edward II. John de Warren Earl of Surrey granted a messuage, with 4 acres and an half of land, to the rector and his Successours."⁴

Peter's Pence, 13½d.

Tithe, £7 4s. 2d., with £1 4s. 2d. deducted.

Temporalities of Bromholm, 14s. 11½d.

Temporalities of the sacrist of St. Edmund's Bury, 6s. 8½d.

"The jury in 15th of Edward I. present that King Richard I. used to receive a mark yearly out of certain tenements in North Repps, Plumsted, Matelaske and Antingham, and the said King gave the rent to the Abbey of Bury, to find one wax candle burning before the shrine of St. Edmund, and the jury testify that a wax candle was at that time there burning."⁵

SOUTH REPPS.

"In the reign of Edward I., the rector had a manse with 12 acres of land; it was valued at 24 marks."⁶

Peter's Pence, 3d.

Tithe, £6 13s. 4d., with £1 deducted.

Temporalities of Castleacre, 15s.

In addition it will be remembered that the Abbess of Brusyard held a manor in South Repps.

SIDESTRAND.

The rectory of Sidestrand has always been divided into two

3. *Ibid.*, p. 142.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 153.

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*, p. 154.

moieties. In the reign of Edward I. the earl Warenne's half was valued at 10 marks, and that of Sir Luke de Poynings at 5 marks.

Peter's Pence, 4d.

Tithe, £4, with £1 deducted.

Temporalities of Bromholm, 12d.

TRIMINGHAM.

"In the reign of Edward I. the rector was found to have a competent edifice, with half an acre of land, and was valued at 9 marks."⁷

Peter's Pence, 12d.

Temporalities of Bromholm, 2d.

TRUNCH.

Domesday Book mentions one church with 10 acres.

The patronage of the church was granted to the priory of Castleacre by the first earl Warenne. "In the reign of Edward I. the rector had a manse, and 13 acres of land valued at 16 marks . . . the prior of Castleacre had a pension or portion of tithe valued at 40s. . . . The Norwich registers say that William the second Earl Warren, granted the patronage, and Eborard, Bishop of Norwich confirmed it; and that Simon the Bishop confirmed the pension in 1268."⁸

Peter's Pence, 13d.

Temporalities of Bromholm, 4s. 7½d.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 178.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 180.

CHAPTER II.

PRE-REFORMATION PARSONS.

It is almost impossible for us to judge the mediæval clergy with fairness and impartiality. In the first place we have very few records relating to their lives and characters, and in the second place what records we have often deal with them in the capacity of offenders against the laws of England or of the manor. The names of the quiet law-abiding and God-fearing priests did not find their way into the criminal proceedings of the period, and so we overlook their existence, and are apt to judge the whole race of clerics by the black sheep, whose ill deeds have been preserved to us in the Crown Plea Rolls, the Court Rolls and other records. And even the bad ones must not be judged by our standards. For example, we are scandalised when we read that in 52-53 Henry III. "Constance concubine of John the priest of Gyvingham bore him a child in the house of the rector of the church of Gyvingham, and that John (the lord's bailiff) broke into the house at night by his men, and took the woman and her bed to the 'Hall' at Gyvingham, and there imprisoned her till the said priest paid a fine of 40s. to deliver her, and he also took of the said 'chaplain' a certain rent for two years. This the bailiff cannot deny." Now the point of this case from the Crown Plea Roll is not the sin of the priest, for he was probably guiltless of sin in the eyes of his contemporaries, but rather the illegal action of the bailiff in carrying off the woman and holding her to ransom. Church law had forbidden the marriage of the clergy, but in Norfolk at any rate it had failed to stop the practice, where in fact clerical marriages were winked at by the authorities. At Ranworth we get a case of the son succeeding his father as rector quite as a matter of course. And yet since the church law was still unrevoked, if any public mention was made of the priest's wife she had perforce to be called his concubine, since in the eyes of ecclesiastical lawyers he was unable to contract marriage. So let us give John, the priest of Gyvingham, the benefit of the doubt, and hope that Mistress Constance was his actual wife, in secret, if not in public, and that neither of them gave any cause of offence to the parishioners.

The majority of the parochial clergy must have led very quiet, uneventful lives, though now and again some big man at Court ac-

quired a benefice as a source of revenue, and for a brief time the rector, maybe of Gimingham or North Repps, becomes a person of national importance.

A chance dispute over tithe in Gimingham and Trimingham in 1281 reveals to us the fact that the powerful and notorious Adam de Stratton was one of the early rectors of Gimingham.

"In the year 1281 there was a controversie between the rector of this town and that of (Trimingham) about the tithes of fish of the hith which was in Gimingham parish, the tithes of the venison in the park of Gymingham, the small tithes, videlicet, milk, cheese, butter, wooll, lambs, pigs, chickens, calfs, etc. : the tithes of a place called Alleynes, and the 3 sheef of Rokland, and other lands by Crenelfen, which they submitted to their Bishop of Norwich."

In the Record Office an undated ecclesiastical document of this period is entitled "Exceptions or reasons against the process before the Archbishop of Canterbury between Dom Adam de Streton, rector of the Church of Gymyngham, and Dom William de Rollesby, rector of the Church of Trimmingham,¹ concerning the fishery coming from the Hida, and also concerning small tithes," but no further details of the suit are given.²

In the following year an agreement was ratified under the seal of William, bishop of Norwich, between the rectors of Gimingham, Trimingham and South Repps, concerning the tithe of fish from the Hithe, the tithes of the park and of the lands called Aleneswong³ and Rokesland.⁴

The dispute was evidently settled satisfactorily for no recurrence of it is recorded. Perhaps the chief value historically is the hitherto unknown fact which it discloses to us, namely, that at that time Adam de Stratton was rector of Gimingham.

The 13th century was a corrupt period in official circles, but it produced no more infamous scoundrel than Adam de Stratton! His story has been told by Mr. Hubert Hall in his introduction to the "Red Book of the Exchequer" (Part III., pp. cccxii.-cccxxxv.), and what follows is largely taken from Mr. Hall's work, some additional facts from original documents, and from the Patent Roll Calendars being added.⁵

1. He was also rector of North Repps and South Repps in 22 Edw. I.

2. Exchequer, *King's Remembrancer, Ecclesiastical Documents*, Bundle 6, No. 14.

3. Wong = meadow.

4. *N. Erp.*, p. 611, quoting "Cartae in scaci'baga de 7 Ap. 1282, 1 Ap. 1283."

5. Unless otherwise described all quotations in inverted commas are from Mr. Hall's introduction.

Adam de Stratton "was probably a native of Stratton in Wilts, one of the many manors held by Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Albemarle (2nd wife and widow of the 3rd earl), as pertaining to the Chamberlainship of England." This great lady was his first patron, and "his earliest preferment in the Countess's service is connected with this place and with the Chamberlainship of the Exchequer." Nothing is known of Adam's parentage or early life, and the first mention we find of him is in a deed which styles him "dominus Adam Clericus de Strattune."⁶ About the same time he is called in a Papal Letter *Magister artum*, which shows that he must have been an educated man. He certainly was an ambitious and unscrupulous one, and when once his foot was on the ladder he lost no opportunity to enrich and exalt both himself and his three brothers, Ralph, William, and Henry.

His own public career centred at the Exchequer, where his first appointment "was probably as the attorney of the Countess, that is to say as her representative in the hereditary office of the Chamberlainship." Later he held the offices of Deputy Chamberlain and Weigher,⁷ besides enjoying the privileges and liberties of a Baron of the Exchequer, without its judicial duties. Adam de Stratton was at the zenith of his power "during the last ten years of the reign of Henry III., and the first twenty of that of Edward I." and royal favours were showered upon him. He was given the supervision of Henry III.'s works at Westminster, and on 26th October, 1263, a mandate is directed to "Adam de Stratton, king's clerk, by all means to let the workmen of the king's houses and of the Church of Westminster have money for their maintenance, so that the said works may not cease for default of money; and when the king knows how much he has paid he will let him have his writ of *Liberate*,"⁸ and two years later he receives in that capacity "the usual grant of robes."

In 1264 we find the king granting to him and his heirs the right to "have their houses at Westminster quit of all livery of seneschals, marshals, bailiffs and other ministers of the king, so that no steward, marshal or other person of the king's household or their harness shall be lodged or stay there against his will; and if they do, it shall not be drawn into a precedent."⁹ Adam's houses thus became secure from outside interference and he was able to perpetrate his crimes

6. *Anct. Deeds*, A. 144.

7. "May 5th, 1262. Confirmation of a grant by John de Windesore to Adam de Stratton, king's clerk, of the office of the weighing (ponderie) at the exchequer of receipt, to hold to him, and his heirs for ten years from Easter this year."—*Pat. R. Cal.*, 46-47, Hen. III., m. 12.

8. *Pat. R. Cal.*, 47 Hen. III., pt. II., m. 2.

9. *Ibid.*, 48 Hen. III., pt. 1, m. 17.

and extortions unhindered by the royal officers. "Bucks and casks of wine" frequently found their way to him as royal gifts, and on occasions "he received a more substantial recognition of his services in the shape of grants of debts due to the Crown."

His brothers were all well provided for—William succeeded him in the office of Weigher, whilst in March, 1266, a grant is made to Henry and Thomas de Stratton, clerks, at the instance of their brother Adam "and for his faithful service . . . of 6d. a day at the Exchequer for their maintenance, for their life, or until the king provide for them more bountifully."¹⁰

ng-
ni. Adam de Stratton was not content with the Exchequer Chamberlainship and Clerkship, he also turned his attention to the acquisition of benefices throughout the length and breadth of England, and there are numerous writs extant dispensing him from residence in his various parishes. Gimmingham was one of his many rectories, but in what year he was presented to it I do not know. On Sunday after the feast of St. John at the Latin Gate, 1281, an appointment is made "by Adam de Stratton, rector of the church of Gymyngham, in the diocese of Norwich, of Henry de Stratton, clerk, as his procurator, in all matters touching himself or his church."¹¹ So evidently brother Henry was more or less responsible for the parish, doubtless getting an impoverished Mass Priest to do the work for a small pittance, whilst greedy old Adam enjoyed the full emoluments of the rectory!

The royal confidence in de Stratton was continued on the accession of Edward I.

In 1274 the new king entrusted him with the task of levying "the arrears of the tallage of the king's Jews in England, with power to levy them on the goods and debts of defaulting Jews, and of compelling Jews who are rebellious or contradictory in this behalf, by exile or abjuration of the realm, if necessary, to pay their portions."¹²

In the 4th year of the same king "the Countess of Albemarle granted to him and his heirs the office of the Chamberlainship of the Exchequer, with all its appurtenances, the manor of Sevenhamp-ton, and the hamlets of Stratton, Worth and Cricklade, which grant was confirmed by the king, who received Adam's homage for the same, and commanded the Treasurer and Barons to receive him, his

10. *Ibid.*, 50 Hen. III., m. 24.

11. Exchequer. *King's Remembrancer, Ecclesiastical Docts.*, Bundle 19, No. 53. At this period Adam was holding *i.a.* the livings of Dorchester (Dorset) and Hadley in Suffolk. See *Pat. R. Cal.*

12. *Pat. R. Cal.*, 2 Edw. I., m. 5. With him were associated Stephen de Foleburn and William de Middleton.

heirs and attornies in the said office accordingly." This was indeed a move up, he was no longer merely the deputy of his patroness, "a subordinate officer at the Exchequer, the man of business of a lady of rank—but *dominus* Adam de Stratton, 'Sir Adam,' a person of great importance, a high officer of State, and a considerable land-owner, with a reputation for wealth and financial skill which made him eagerly sought after by impecunious abbots, speculative merchants, and the whole tribe of needy and desperate suitors."

Always unscrupulous, avaricious and ambitious, Adam now found himself in a position where his genius for criminal scheming could find wide scope. The Red Book of the Exchequer, and other official records were in his custody, and there was no one but himself to take cognizance of false entries. He was determined to feather his own nest, "manors, advowsons or franchises, nothing came amiss to him, and his possessions were spread over a wide area. He had a special taste, however, for the acquisition of house property in London and its suburbs, and the persons whom he usually selected as his victims were churchmen, widows and orphans, and embarrassed debtors of the Crown. He was also notorious as a usurer, and he was on familiar terms with the Jews and Lombards. To this unenviable reputation came to be added before long the suspicion of criminal practises—perjury and forgery, fraud, embezzlement and magic." Adam de Stratton did not content himself, however, with the plunder of the poor and needy, he also addressed his talents to the task of despoiling his noble patroness the Countess of Albemarle, on two occasions daring to tamper with Charters relating to her property. His ability was unquestioned, and even though he suffered a brief disgrace in 1279 the king seemed unable to do without him, and on 15th November he was pardoned "of all the rancour conceived against him by the king by reason of certain trespasses of which he has proved his innocence before the king and his council, and admission of him to the king's grace, and pardon to him of all amercements which may touch him for the future, and which pertain to the king during the time in which he was in the service of Henry III. and the king to Sunday the vigil of St. Edmund the King, 7 Edward I., and restitution to him of the office of chamberlain of the Exchequer, of which he was deprived by reason of the trespasses aforesaid."¹³

The pardoned peculator returned to the fray with renewed vigour. His favourite method of fraud was to invite his victim to transact business with him by means of a good offer "to hold of him certain lands or houses to farm for a term of years." Once the deed

13. *Ibid.*, 7 Edw. I., m. 2.

was signed, sealed and delivered Sir Adam would pretend that he had acquired the property in fee simple, in modern language that he had bought it outright and that therefore he owed no rent to the unfortunate owner. In support of his claim he was wont to produce a cunningly forged quit claim, which document was practically incontrovertible, since the wily Chamberlain "had caused it to be enrolled at the Exchequer." De Stratton could resort to worse methods of persuasion if his clients proved recalcitrant, and if he could get them within his house at either Newgate or Westminster, he did not scruple to lock them up in his cellars or load them with chains, or even to torture them if thereby a desired title-deed or charter could be extorted from his victims. "He is even alleged to have employed the marshal's prison at the Exchequer for similar purposes, and once he entraps an obstinate debtor in the Chapel of the Receipt itself, and whilst his brother William the weigher shuts fast the door, he deprives him of his charter, cuts off the seal, and throws it from the open window into the river Thames." Time and again attempts were made to bring Adam to judgment, but they failed again and again. It was an age of gross official corruption, and in 1289 a number of the principal judges were arraigned for maladministration. Their trial and subsequent conviction contributed to the fall of Adam de Stratton himself.

He was found guilty of two crimes, typical of hundreds of others which had escaped punishment, and an enormous fine, and an indefinite imprisonment were the well-deserved reward of a fraudulent career. Proofs were forthcoming that his servants had been commissioned to waylay and rob a certain Bermondsey merchant named Roger Goodman, at a place called Widford in Hertfordshire. The victim in pursuit of his assailants penetrated into Adam de Stratton's stables in London, where he found his property secreted. But Adam was not so easily run to earth, and setting aside the point blank evidence against him, he promptly made a counter claim that the unfortunate Roger was his own fugitive bondman, and thereupon compelled him to pay a ransom for his freedom! However, before long the merchant's case was brought before the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the misdemeanours of officials, and there de Stratton was found guilty at last, and safely lodged in gaol. In the same year, 1290, a complaint of forgery, brought against him by the Prior of Bermondsey, finally sealed his fate. "It is a pitiful tale of improvidence and credulity on the one side and of craft and fraud on the other. For many years past Adam had enjoyed on favourable terms the farm of the Priory lands in Bermondsey and elsewhere, together with their advowsons. By pandering to the extravagance of spendthrift priors he had placed the house entirely

at his mercy. They could neither eat nor drink (*manger ne beyre*), as they piteously complained, but by his pleasure. At length he prepared a grand *coup* by which he was to obtain the fee simple of that which he had hitherto held in fee farm. He forged a charter for this purpose, and affixed to it a genuine seal taken from another deed. In doing this he made some blunder, which betrayed the forgery, and the Priory, backed by the religious King, and by public opinion, was able to escape from his toils By reason of his felony his vast property" was seized, and his numerous spiritualities had to be accounted for in every diocese. His Chamberlainship had already been forfeited. The records of the time prove what a clever and unscrupulous rascal the man was, and not content with imputing to him the crimes of homicide and forgery his contemporaries added to these the yet more awful enormity of sorcery. "Amongst his possessions was found a certain bag of silk, containing parings of nails and human hair, the feet of toads and moles and other *diabolica*. This bag was seized by the examining Justice and officially sealed, but Adam, in contempt of the King's majesty, tampered with the seal and threw the incriminating articles into a drain. For this contempt he was convicted before the Justices of treason and sorcery. His life was spared by reason of his clergy, but all his lands and goods were forfeited to the Crown, and he left Court covered with shame. Others, however, state that he was imprisoned during the King's pleasure. In any case both the crime and its punishment were of a prodigious character, because the moon at her full (write the Chroniclers) appeared to be striped with Indian red and other colours."

And that was the end of the most notorious rector of Gimingham!

PROTECTIONS.

A curious feature of the early Patent Roll Calendars is the frequent bestowal of protections to clerical subjects for one year or more, the suppliant having granted to the king "a moiety of his benefices and goods." For instance, the following cases occur (*i.a.*) in 1294:—

"27 Sept.

Protection for one year in favour of the persons and goods of the prelates and clergy, as they have granted the king for the present year a moiety of their benefices and goods, according to the taxation last made for a tenth for the Holy Land.

Oliver de Wysete, parson of the Churches of Wakefeld and Trunche [and afterwards rector of South Repps, 1305].

William de Rollesby, parson of the Churches of South Reppes, North Reppes and Trymingham.

8 Oct.

William de Knapeton,¹⁴ parson of the Church of Beghenham, Robt. de Ludham, parson of the Church of Knapton and Osmodes-ton."

Apart from the interest of the entries themselves the above extracts testify to the fact that most of the clergy were pluralists. It was all very well for one priest to hold the adjoining rectories of North Repps, South Repps, and Trimingham, but the practical and spiritual inconvenience of having the same rector for Wakefield¹⁵ and Trunch must have been very great. A non-resident, pluralist clergy seems to have been accepted as a matter of course in the 13th century. Other protections granted in the early 14th century without the heavy fee include patents to the following:—

1309, March. Master William de Knapton, Archdeacon of Norwich, going with the Bishop of Norwich beyond sea on the King's business.

1324, June. One year to John Waryn, parson of the church of Gymmyingham.

THE FAMILY OF CUSANCIA.

The clerical and courtier family of de Cusancia gave certainly two and possibly three rectors to North Repps and South Repps during the 14th century. The Cusancias were of French origin, probably natives of Coutance, and the founder of the family in England seems to have been Sir Peter de Cusancia, knight, who appears to have died before 1314.¹⁶ He was probably the father of some of the many de Cusancias of the period, and was possibly the brother of Gerard de Cusancia, parson of Wyverton, Lincolnshire and Basingbourn, Cambs. In 1308 he was granted a protection "on going beyond the seas with Queen Margaret on the King's business" and again in 1310, 1311 and 1313, on going with the earl of Richmond. As a rule he left Gerard de Cusancia as his attorney in England, but in 1313 both Gerard and Reginald de Cusancia, parson of Foulden, Norfolk, went with him.

14. In March, 1309, Master Wm. de Knapton, Archdeacon of Norwich, receives a protection on going beyond seas with the Bishop of Norwich on the King's service.

15. Wakefield was, of course, also a De Warenne fee.

16. 10 March, 1314. "Pardon to the prior and convent of the hospital of St. Mary without Bysshopesgate, London, in consideration of a fine made by John Tany (or Tavy) for acquiring in mortmain, without licence, rents to the value of 20*l.* a year in London from the said John Tany, who held that rent in chief, to find four chaplains to celebrate divine service daily in the church of the hospital for his soul and the soul of *Peter de Cusancia*, etc. *Pat. R. Cal.*, 7 Edw. II., pt. 2, m. 20.

Of his sons (?) James was a monk of Lewes, and afterwards prior of Prittelwell. In 1319 he was summoned before the king on a charge of having procured the priory, taking it by force from William le Avernay. James de Cusancia was allowed, however, to remain in possession as prior. In 1338 he was the "alien" prior of St. Mary's, Thetford.

William,
Rector of
North
and
South
Repps.

William de Cusancia, *king's clerk*, held high appointments of State, and in 1324 was "treasurer to the king's son, earl of Chester." He held the rectory of North Repps from 1315 to 1324, and that of South Repps from 1324 to 1328. Both "William de Cusancia" and "William, son of Peter de Cusancia" occur together in a document of this period, so evidently there were two Peters, probably uncle and nephew. On 2 February, 1317, licence is given "until St. Margaret the Virgin, for William de Cusancia, parson of the Church of Northreppes, co. Norfolk, to take by water 200 quarters of barley and 100 quarters of oats from his church of Northreppes to the priory of Pritelwell, co. Essex, for the sustenance of the prior and the monks, he having found security by John de Cotum, Elias de Thorpe and Simon de Thorpe, citizens of London, that he will not take the barley and oats elsewhere. By fine of 2 marks."¹⁷ In 1318 William "parson of Northreppes," Gerard and James de Cusancia all receive protections for one year.¹⁸

Preferment was showered on William during the next few years. In 1320 he became Canon of Ripon and Prebendary of West Thurock, but unfortunately it was afterwards found out by the king that the latter office was not vacant, and so William was unable to enjoy it. In the same year he is appointed as "buyer of cloth, wax, spicery and other things for the Great Wardrobe."¹⁹

On 30th September, 1324, William de Cusancia, treasurer to the earl of Chester, king's clerk, "born of the power of the King of France," is given a protection "notwithstanding the late ordinance of the king and Council that the bodies of all Frenchman and others of the power of that king, even though they be of the household of the king, or his consort, shall be taken and their lands seized. The like at the request of the said William, for the following:—

Peter de Cusancia, his brother.

John de Cusancia, prior of Bermundsey. } brothers.

William de Cusancia, [*sic*]

John demate, kinsman.

17. *Pat. R. Cal.*, 10 Edw. II., pt. 2, m. 30.

18. *Ibid.*, 12 Edw. II., pt. 1, m. 24.

19. *Ibid.*, 14 Edw. II., pt. 1, m. 17.

Gerard de Cusancia, uncle, with Master John de Idle, chaplain, Peter chaplain, John Dormauntz, and Wm. le Borgulon, of his [Gerard's] household.

Brother James de Cusancia, prior of Pritelwell, brother.

Hugh de Cusancia, kinsman."²⁰

In the following November "Wm. de Cusancia, son of Peter de Cusancia, knight, born of the realm" also receives a protection.

In 1338 William de Cusancia acted as administrator of the lands and goods of his late patron, John, earl of Cornwall. His services continued to be used by the Crown, and in November, 1339, he is one of four persons appointed to raise a loan for the king of £40,000. Next year we find him as a royal commissioner (with Robert de Morle, "admiral of the king's fleet of ships from the mouth of the Thames towards the north," John de Norwico and Robert de Scardeburgh), "to enquire into the boarding and pillaging of a large ship, the 'Taret,' on its way to Flanders, where the king then was, by certain ships of Great and Little Yarmouth, Dunwich and Baudeseye," the accused including "Roger de Gymyngham, lord, and Nicholas de Gymyngham, master, of a ship called le Niechip."

In the same year William de Cusancia was one of the supervisors "to find in co. Norfolk the value of the 9th lamb and the 9th sheaf in each parish, and the 9th part of the goods of cities and boroughes, granted to the king for two years by statute, and to collect the same."

While he was absent "beyond seas" in 1340 "in the king's company" John de Brunham, parson of Wood Dalling, is left to fill his place in the county of Norfolk.

William de Cusancia was now keeper of the King's Wardrobe, Treasurer of the Exchequer, and Prebendary of Lincoln, and I am afraid that he must have enjoyed nearly as bad a reputation at the Exchequer as his predecessor, Adam de Stratton, had done. On 13th May, 1344, a pardon is extended "to William de Cusancia, clerk, for all manner of felonies, rapes of women, oppressions, conspiracies, taking of wool without the realm, uncocketed and uncus-tomed, purchase and sale of wool within the price ordained, and other trespasses whereof he is indicted, and of any consequent out-lawries!"²¹ His character does not seem to have been injured by these accusations, and for several more years to come his name occurs in the Patent Rolls as a royal commissioner and agent.

Peter de Cusancia was rector of both North and South Repps, possibly by some kind of joint arrangement with his brother (?) William, whom he followed at North Repps, and preceded at South

20. *Ibid.*, 18 Edw. II., pt. 1, m. 20.

21. *Ibid.*, 18 Edw. III., pt. 1, m. 9.

Repps. On 23rd June, 1323, he was presented to the Church of South Repps, in the diocese of Norwich, in the king's gift, by reason of his custody of the land and heir of John de Warennia, earl of Surrey, who held in chief of Edward I."²² He gave up South Repps in 1324, but he was still rector of North Repps in 1377, for in answer to a writ from the king to the bishops demanding particulars of foreign clergy in their dioceses, Peter de Cusaunce is returned as the only alien cleric in the county of Norfolk,²³ and his church of Northreppes is valued at the large sum of £40 *per annum*.²⁴ He must have died or been dispossessed of his benefice soon after this enquiry, for a new rector, Gregory de Stanford, was appointed to North Repps in 1378.

The lists of South Repps incumbents as usually given show that *John* de Cusancia was rector from 1323-4. Obviously this must be a misprint for *Peter*, for we have the positive evidence of the Patent Rolls that he was appointed to that living in 1323. At the same time there *was* a *John* de Cusancia, who was prior of Bermondsey in 1322, but it is very unlikely that he would have been appointed rector of South Repps in the following year.

[Deans of
Trunch.]

The parish of Trunch enjoyed one peculiarity in the 13th and 14th centuries, for in addition to the rectors there were also deans of Trunch. Possibly the present rural deanery of Repps was then known as the deanery of Trunch.

"Nicholas Decanus de Trunch" is a witness to charters *tempus* Henry III.,²⁵ whilst in the following century the following are described as deans of Trunch.

- 1304 Richard de Snetesham.
- 1308 Roger de Bosco.
- 1311 Mr. Gilbert de Meleford.
- 1330 Richard de Barwe.
- 1337 Thomas de Norwich.
- 1339 William de Hiltoft.²⁶

[Licence
for bond-
men to
take
Holy
Orders.]

Bond status was in mediæval times a legal bar to the taking of Holy Orders, and it was necessary for a bondman to obtain a deed of manumission from his lord if he desired to enter the priesthood. Amongst the Duchy of Lancaster MSS. are two such deeds relating

22. *Ibid.*, 16 Edw. II., pt. 2, m. 4.

23. There were three aliens altogether in the diocese of Norwich, the others being the Cardinal de Sancto Angelo, Archdeacon of Suffolk (100 marks), and Lawrence de Nigris of Rome, parson of Alderton, Suff. (40 marks).

24. See E. Powell and G. M. Trevelyan, *The Peasants' Rising and the Lollards*, pp. 58 and 61.

25. B.M. *Add. Charters*, 14810 and 17218.

26. Blomefield, VIII., p. 181.

to the enfranchisement of bondmen regardant to the manor of Gimingham. They belong to the fourth year of Henry V., and have already been printed by Mr. Walter Rye, in Vol. I., of "The East Anglian" (N.S.). I only discovered this fact after I had myself obtained a transcript in translation of the first of these documents, which is as follows:—

27^a "The King to all whom (etc :) know ye that we of our special grace and for reverence of God and by the intuition of charity, have granted and given licence to Richard Herman, son of John Herman of Esterton, our bond tenant born within our lordship of Gymyngham, which is of our Duchy of Lancaster, that he may be able to take and receive clerical orders according to the form of ecclesiastical right and serve God in the same orders so long as he shall live; and that he may enjoy the same without impediment or disturbance of us or our heirs or ministers whomsoever notwithstanding his said bondage or other cause whatsoever to us belonging. In Witness (etc.) Given at Westminster 18 Nov. in the 4th year." (4 Henry V.).²⁸

The next case is that of Thomas Fitz William, a native tenant of the manor of Wood Dalling, which was reckoned as parcel of the capital manor of Gimingham. One of the chief objections to a bondman taking Orders was that the lord and the manor lost his services, and in the document which follows it will be seen that it is urged that Thomas Fitz William has a father and two brothers who will be able to render to the lord the services due to him from the family:—

29^a Thomas Fitz Thomas William Messenger, "nre neief tenu't de nre William Messa- manoir de Wodallyng qest membre . . . de nre manoir de Gymmyngham el Countie de Norff q'nous pliuroit de luy gnte licence qil p'rait p'ndre seintz ordres de seinte esglise t' ycelz ordres avoir tenir t' enjoier selon les custumes t' leye de seinte eglise Nous considerant le bon t' honest desir du dit Thom's qil ad de dieu s'vir aussoi qil ad un frere [père ?] t' deux freres p'faire a noz les s'vices q' no appciequent p'reson de la dite neifcote come dite est de nre gce espale t' a la rev'ence de dieu avont grnte dit Thome nre plenere licence p' y testes qil puisse p'ndre toutz les seintz ordres de seinte esglise t' ycelz ordres avoir tenir t' enjoier solone les custumes t' loyes de seinte esglise sanz chaleng ou empeschement de nous ou de noz heirs ou

27. *D. of L. Miscellaneous Bks.*, Vol. XVII., pt. 3, f. 67.

28. In *The East Anglian* (N.S.), Vol. I., p. 5, Mr. Walter Rye gives the transcript in the original Latin.

29. *D. of L. Misc. Bks.*: Vol. XVII., pt. 2, f. 11b., transcribed by Mr. Walter Rye.

noz Offiçs' ou ministres qeong's'. Ceo q' le dit Th: est nre neif de nre manoir de Wodallyng qest pcell t' membre de nre dit manoir de Gymmyngham come dite est nient contresteant en temoignance cc Donn^o a Kenyngton le xxv de Juyn."

We find very little about the clergy in the Court Rolls, though now and again they figure in land transactions. Sometimes they get involved in disputes, and in 1493 the Trimmingham jury present Wiott Mabyrle of Sydestrond for calling the chaplain of Sydestronde "false perjurer," and again in 1497 there is trouble between "Wyot Maberly" and "Nicholas Pylgryme,³⁰ chaplain."

In 1496 John Russell of Moneslee, clerk, is accused of poaching, the jury stating that he "was a hunter within the warren of the lord the king at Moneslee, Trymyngham, and Sydestronde, with greyhounds and other hounds, and there killed a hare. Therefore the matter is referred to the King's Council." This 15th century sporting "Parson Russell" must have been a fairly cool hand in trespassing on the royal preserves, for he had actually been appointed to his rectory by the king in 1493!

One would like to know more about the Pre-Reformation clerics, but there is very little evidence to draw upon, and so perforce this chapter is nothing but a collection of the few fragments that remain.

30. Appointed rector of Sidestrand in 1477, by John Attewode, gent.

CHAPTER III.

THE CHANTRY.

John of Gaunt was the founder of a Chantry Chapel within the parish of Gimingham, distant "a quarter of a mile" from the parish church. Doubtless it stood in the field still known as "Chantry Piece," lying halfway between the church and Gimingham Pound.

In the Ministers' Accounts for 1391-2 we get particulars of its endowment. Amongst the receipts from land it is recorded "nothing from the farm of the lands and tenements late of Isabel Gant,¹ seized into the hands of the lord for certain causes, because the lord granted the said lands and tenements, together with the free chapel of the lord within the manor of Gymyngham, with all rights and appurtenances whatsoever, to Adam Plomer, Chaplain, for celebrating divine service continually within the said chapel; to hold during good pleasure and by sustaining and repairing the hall, kitchen and grange of the said tenements, by letters patent dated at Leicester 4 June, 15 Richard II. (1392), which were then wont to render 46s." And a little further on, amongst the decayed rents, we read "in allowance of rent of one messuage and forty acres of land, late of Isabel Gant, which the lord granted to Adam Plomer, Chaplain of the Chantry within the manor 7s."

The payment of the Chaplain's salary is also enrolled in the same accounts—"Adam Plomer, Chaplain, paid to him, by the year, as of right pertains to the free Chapel within the manor of Gymyngham, which the lord granted to the same Adam, with all its rights and appurtenances whatsoever, as appears by the letters patent of the lord, 20s."

In 1402, William Ussher was appointed Chaplain of the Chantry by Henry IV.

²12 FEBRUARY, 1402.

Henry (the fourth) by the grace of God, King of England and of France and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting. Know that we of our especial grace and in love of

1. It is a curious coincidence that the names of lord and tenant should be practically the same!

2. *B.M. Addl. Charter*, 14,713 (dorse). Abstract from the French.

God, have granted to our beloved William Ussher, chaplain, the chantry in our manor of Gymyngham. To have to the said William the same chantry for the term of his life, with all the lands and all other things and profits to the said chantry at any time appurtenant or belonging, as fully and in the same manner as one Adam Plommer, late chaplain there whilst he lived. In witness whereof we have caused our letters patent to be made under our seal of Lancaster, at our Palace of Westminster, the 12th day of February, in the third year of our reign.

By the King himself.

In the Ministers' Accounts for 1414-5 we get the year's balance sheet of the Chantry, which include heavy expenses for the repair of buildings, the remains of the old windmill of Trunch being purchased as timber for the same at a cost of 23s. 4d. Adam Hornyngtoft, the reeve, seems to have carried out the work with what we may call "estate labour," which the Chaplain probably had to pay for out of his considerable income of £10 4s. 8d. from the Chantry lands.

"ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM USSHER, Chaplain of the Chantry of the Manor of Gymyngham, and ADAM HORNYNGTOFT of divers payments by them received of divers reeves for repairing the said chantry.

Receipts.

From rents of the Chantry lands, £10 4s. 8d.

Outgoings.

COST OF THE HOUSES OF THE CHANTRY.	For three carts hired for the carriage of thornes for making the hedges round about the chantry house, 10d. /—————/. Repairing the walls of the said Chantry house, two days, 8d.; paid for two ash trees for beams for the grange of the said Chantry, 4s.; for sixty "splintes" for repairing the same grange, 12d.; six more ashes for making and repairing the said grange, 14s. 6d.; carriage of wood to the same Chantry, 20d.; paid for the old timber of the windmill of Trunch, bought of Adam Hornyngtoft, reeve, of Gimingham, 23s. 4d.; carriage of the same from Trunch to the said Chantry, 20d.; In eighty "couples" bought of William Lound and two "cilles," "stothis" and "wyndbemys" bought for making and repairing the hall of the chantry, and the dovecote, 35s.; for reeds for thatching the said houses, 5s.; carriage of the same from South Repps to the same Chantry, 6d. 6d. To a carpenter for making and repairing the dovecote within the said Chantry, by agreement, 6s. 8d.; straw bought for the said Chantry, for the making thereof, [<i>sic</i>]
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3s. 4d. ; for making one new house [*domo*] [and] for hanging [*imponend*] the doors, by contract, 3s. 4d. ; to Clement Brant, carpenter, for making a grange within the chantry, 6s. 8d., on account of the 30s. agreed to be paid.

Sum of the expenses, 105s. 2d."

In another place in the same roll we find that the lord "paid for the washing of the vestments of the chapel, this year, 2d."

At the compilation of the "Valor Ecclesiasticus" in 1535 only one chantry is returned in the Repps Rural Deanery, which was, of course, that of Gimingham.³

The Chantry and its priest continued undisturbed until after the death of Henry VIII., but in the first and second years of Edward VI., a campaign was undertaken by the authorities for the suppression of chapelries, guilds, obits and endowed lights—A "survey and certificate" was made of "all and singular Chauntries, free chapels, ffraternyties, brotherhoodes, Guyldes . . . priestes havinge lands ass[igne]d to the mayntennce of lamps, lyghtes and Obytte londes charged . . . [for] the augmentacon of A private livinge and any other suche lieke being and leinge within the survey of the courte of the Duchie of Lancaster in the Countie of Norff, taken and made the iiijth. daie of Marche in the second yere of the Reigne of oure souerein lord Edward the vj by the grace of God of England ffraunce and Ireland Kinge, Defender of the ffaith and in Erthe of the Churches of England and Ireland Supreme hedde, by Sr Roger Townshend knighte, John Gosold Esquior and Thomas Crooke Gentyllman with others Comysysoners of oure said Souereyne (etc :) All which said londes are nowe come to the kings Ma^{tie} by Reason of an Acte of pliamint in the first yere of his Highnes Reigne made and enacted."

The Chantry of Gimingham is therein described as follows:—

<p>⁴GYMMYNG- HAM.</p>	<p>one Chantry.</p>	<p>ffoundid</p>	<p>By whom or to we cannot terme but as we be Certefied to this Intent and purpose vz to have a priest contynuallye for ever to syng in the Chappell within the Scyte of</p>
<p>the mano^r place in the tyme of the kings Ma^{ties} Audits and Courtes holden ther, whereof Thomas pecke Clerke is encombent, A man of</p>			

3. There were only four chantries in the whole Archdeaconry of Norfolk and nineteen in the Archdeaconry of Norwich.

4. *D. of L. Certificates of Colleges and Chantries*, No. 6.

good lernyng and of thage of LX yeres hauvng nowe the lyving as we are enformed.

{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> It is NO pishe [parish] Church but Distannt from it a quar- ter of a myle. </div> }	{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> The yerelye value thereof is </div> }	{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> LXs. whereof </div> }
--	--	--

{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> The yerelie tenthes </div> }	{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> The value of the plate showeth ornaments as by an Inventory thereof do Remayne it apparith </div> }	{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> PLATE as of the price of one Chal- lion. </div> }
{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> And so Re- mayneth </div> }	{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> vjs. to the en- combent liiij.s. </div> }	{ <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> vs. ORNA- MENTS of the Chappell </div> }

In the Duchy of Lancaster Draft Leases 6/68 we learn the fate of Gimingham Chantry.

Com Norff
Cantaria in
villa de Gy-
myngm' in
com pdco'. } "Farm of a House with certain lands in Gymyngm in
the aforesaid county of the annual value of LXs."

BY whom the same was ffoundid I can not certifie,
but it appeareth to thentent to have A priest to syng
for ever in the Chappell within the Scyte of the Man^{or} place of
Gymyngm in the tyme of the kings Audite and Courte holden there
Off which Chauntrye Thomas pecke Clerke ys now Encombent

IT ys distannte ffrom the pishe Church one quarter of A myle.

WOODES or underwoodes ther are none other then suche as
serue ffor the ffermers ffewell And his necessary hedgebote.

M^d. Whether is a fformer pticuler made of the p'misses to Thomas
Woodhous Esquye^r before the kings Ma^{tie} his Comysysoners for the
sale of suche londes appoynted And I assertheyned that the said
Woodhous hath gone throwe withe the purchase of the same and
paied the money to the kings Ma^{tie} is vse which is to be remembred
upon the grannte of any lease of the p'misses."

This refers to the grant of the Chantry, with lands in Trunch and Paston, to Thomas Wodehouse, of Waxham.⁵ But the document concludes with the following memorandum in another handwriting [? William Paget's] "make a leasse of the p'misses to Edward ffisher for xxj yeres," at a rent of £3 *per annum*. So the Chantry became part of "ffisher's lease" which was shortly afterwards sublet to Peter Rede. [The lease is signed by William Paget].

5. Blomfield, VIII., p. 124.

CHAPTER IV.

BENEFACTIONS AND GUILDS.

The making of a Will in pre-Reformation days was essentially an act of religion. In the first place the testator makes a solemn commendation of his soul to God Almighty, or to the Holy Trinity and to all the Company of Heaven, and then in the bestowing of his goods and chattels he is careful not to forget legacies to the Altars of his parish Church, or to the image of his patron saint, or for the purchase of some new vestment. He also directs to be buried in the Church or Churchyard. And then when he is dead and his executors have to act, only the ecclesiastical courts can grant probate of the will, and the final administration is through the registry of the Bishop or of the Archdeacons.

Practically every Churchman at his death bequeathed something to his parish Church. As often as not the poorer man would leave some article of his household possessions or his best gown, whilst the richer folk left gold and silver plate and money and fine materials for the service of the Sanctuary.

Mediæval wills therefore abound in interesting information as to Altars, Guilds, Lights and Images to which bequests were made.

A few extracts from the wills of inhabitants of the Soke villages will illustrate some of these features.¹

GIMINGHAM.

1371. Thomas Pertryk desired to be buried in the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin of Gimingham. (Reg. Haydon, quoted *N. Erp.* p. 66).
1453. Robert Reynald, rector, directed to be buried in the Chancel there. (Reg. Aleyn f. 162^a.).
1480. For Robert Cantell, rector of Gimingham and Trunch, see under Trunch.
- 1529-32. "Hugh Barker parson of Gimingham by his will

1. Quotations in inverted commas are from Norris's *Funeral Monuments*, and his *North Erpingham*. Other sources are specially noted.

dat^d. 28 feb. 1529 & prov^d. 23 Dec. 1532 directed to be buried in the Chancel there before St. Ann & gave 20s. to y^e Gilding of her Image, also he gave to the building of the Chancel there all his timbr and a Tree lying at Rammesgrave Southwolde [i.e. Southwood], and 20s. in money and to the repⁿ. [reparation] of the Church 10s." (Reg. Heyward 49^a.).

KNAPTON.

- 1385-9. The will of Sir John de Plays "dated on the Thursday before the Feast of St. John Baptist, 1385, . . . and proved on the 16th July, 1389" has already been given fully on page 35. It may be remembered that his munificent benefactions included "to the prior and Convent of Bromholm his black vestment and x marks of silver," to "Sir William, parson of the Church of Knapton 20*l*. of silver," and "to the repair of every Church in his patronage, 40s." Knapton was one of the de Plays' advowsons and therefore benefited under his Will, whilst its rector "Sir William" was a certain William Smethe, who had been appointed by Sir John himself in 1371, and who also acted as an executor to his will. Possibly this William Smethe belonged to the Knapton family of Smyth, which for several centuries produced some of the most prominent inhabitants of the village and the greatest benefactors to the Church.
1428. Clement Cook, priest, "by his Will dated and proved 1428 . . . directed to be buried in the Churchyard at Knapton and gave to the repair of the Church 26s. 8d., to the Augustine Fryers at Norw[ic]h 6s. 8d. to the Fryers Preachers at Clare in Suff. 6s. 8d. and made Clemt. Cook his nephew Exor." (Reg. Surfleete, f. 33^b.).
1440. "Peter Erle, Clerk, by his Will dated at Knapton 4 Novr. 1440 and proved 6 Febr. following, directed to be buried in the Conventual Church of Monte gaudii in the Chaple of St. Mary there, and gave to the sd. poor Monastery £20, the cannons there to have it for their cloathing at 4 or 5 marcs a year, as long as it lasted, to the Prioress of Cambridge his best spoon and 13s. 4d. To the poor Nuns at Crabhouse 40s., to the poorest Nuns at Thetford 40s., to the Priory of Blakeney 20s., to the Priory of Walsingham 20s., to his brother the Rector of Knapton all his Books." (Reg. Doke, f. 139^b.).

1465. "Thomas Erle, Rector of Knapton, by his Will dated 6 June 1465 and proved 10 Oct. following directed to be buried in the Chancel there." (Reg. Cobalde, f. 41^a).
1465. "John Kyng, of Knapton, by his Will dated and proved 1465 gave to the Church there a Silver Pax of the value of 4 or 5 marcs." (Reg. Cobalde, f. 49^a).
- 1466-7. "Henry Burgeys, of Knapton, by his Will dated 1466 and provd. 1467 directed to be buried in the Churchyard of St. Peter at Knapton and gave legacies to the Guilds and to the Lights in the Church and to the Church of Swathfield." (Reg. Grey, f. 183.^b).
- 1495-6. Nicholas Larke, formerly vicar of Happisburgh, "by his Will dated 13 Sept. 1495 and provd. 10 June, 1496 directed to be buried in the Church of Knapton before the Image of Our Lady there." (Reg. Multon, f. 7^a). Norris gives the inscription on his brass (now lost) as follows:—

"Orate p'aia' Nichs. Larke nup' vicarii de Hasburgh qui obiit Ao. dni. MCCCCLXXXVI."

Other authorities have read the date as 1486, but since the date of the proving of the Will is 1496 we may assume that Norris is right.

1505. "Christopher Arcall, of Knapton, by his Will dated 20 Oct. 1505 directed to be buried in the Church here and gave for the breaking of the Ground 10s., to the High Altar 10s., to the repair of the Bells 10s. and to the Guilds and Lights and to the Guild of St. Albert of Paston." (Reg. Day, f. 93^a).
- 1516-7. William Smyth, by his Will dated 28 March, 1516 and proved 26 June, 1517, directed to be buried in the Church and gave "7*li.* to buy a Chesible with Albys and Parures and a Cope for the said Church." (Reg. Gyles, f. 17^b). His brass still exists, bearing the following inscription:—

"Orate p'aia Will'i Smyth qui obiit quinto die Januarii Ao. d'ni quingentesimo sexto [?] septo] decimo xii'i ai'e p'priet. de'."

His benefactions were dispersed all too soon at the hands of the Edwardian Church despoilers, as will be seen in another Chapter.

1518. John Smythe, rector of Knapton, and donor of the Chancel roof, "by his Will dated 9 July 1581 and proved 28 August following directed to be buried in the Chancel of his Church of Knapton aforsaid, if he died in that town, otherwise to be buried in the Collegiate Church of St. Mary in the Fields at Norwich, and gave to the repair of Knapton Church 40s. To the Prior and Convent of Bromholme 13s. 4d. To the Prior and Convent of Ingham 5s. To the College of St. Mary aforsaid £5. To Mr. Bartrand Woodhouse Rect[or] of Trunch 3 silver spoons." (Reg. Gylys, f. 185^a. and Briggs, f. 62^b.).

The Chancel roof in question was completed in 1504, and once bore on both sides "in the chancell under the roof":—

"Orate p'ia Joh's Smithe in decretis baccalaurei rectoris istuis eccl'ie qui hoc opes fabricari fecit 1504 cujus a'te propitiety deus, amen."²

It is not unlikely that John Smyth was also responsible for the erection of the wonderful Nave Roof.

Another Smyth brass, now lost, was inscribed:—

"Orate p'iaibz Bici' Smyth et Alicie uxis ej' q'i Ricard obiit 6^o die Aprilis Ao dni MCCCC^o et Alicie obiit xiiii^o die januarii A^o dni MCCCCXXXVIII^o quos aiabz p'piciet' deo." (Norris).

- 1527-8. "Thomas Smyth, of Knapton, by his Will dated 28 Sept. 1527 and proved 31 January 1528 directed to be buried in the Church there and gave all his Messes: Lands, etc. in Knapton, Swathfeld and Paston [except the lands late Edmund Smyth's which he directed to be sold] to George Smyth his son at 21, and in the meantime the rents and profits to fulfill his Will, also to his said son George he gave his Place in Norwich in the parish of St. Stephen, and to Joan his wife he gave his place in Norwich in the parish of St. Andrew. Legacies to Margaret and Catherine his daughters Henry Reppes . . . executor." (Reg. Attemere, f. 59^a.).

I have given the above extract from Thomas Smyth's Will, as it shows that the family owned land on a con-

2. Le Neve, *N. Erp.* p. 113-4, and Norris.

siderable scale. In fact in 15 Henry VIII. Thomas Smyth was the only inhabitant of Knapton who was liable to pay the Subsidy levied on persons "worth £40 in goods and lands."

The Will of another member of the family of Smyth of Knapton is at Somerset House, viz., that of Robert Smyth, of St. Benet Gracechurch and Knapton dated 1529. (Reg. 14 Jankyn).

MUNDESLEY.

1517. William Harmer of Mondesley by his Will dated 28 July and proved 11 August, 1517, directed "to be buried in the Church or Churchyard there, and if in the Church, then near to the Place where he used to sit: and ordered a marble stone to be laid over his grave, and gave 4 marcs to buy a vestment for the use of the said Church." (Reg. Gyls, f. 31^a).
1520. John Russell, Rustell or Roesell, rector of Mundesley, by his Will "made by the name of Sr. John Russell Parson of Monesley dated 26 Sept. 1520 and proved 11 Oct. following, directed to be buried in the Chancel of the Church of All Saints there and gave to the same Church an Altar Cloath and 13s. 4d. to the repair thereof." (Reg. Heyward f. 120^a. and Reg. Alablaster, f. 78^a).
1523. Nicholas Flyght "parson of Mundesley and Parish Priest of Yarmouth" by his Will dated 28 July 1523 and proved 7 Oct. following, directed to be buried in the Church of St. Nicholas at Yarmouth. His executors were John Flyght of Knapton, his brother and John Rugge, of North Repps, and one of his legatees was Cecily Rugge, his god-daughter. (Reg. Alablaster, f. 204^b). He also directed that some land should be sold in Trunch for the purchase of a red velvet cope "to be boughte to thuse [the use] of godds soice [service] in Crists Church in Norwich [i.e., the Cathedral]."³
1546. Edmund Peck, rector, "by his Will made by the name of Sr. Edmd. Peck of Mundesley dated 2 Nov. 1546 and proved 10 Nov. 1546, directed to be buried in this Church and ordered his Executors to repair the Font there." (Reg. Hyll, f. 265^b).

3. *Chancery Suit*, bundle 565, No. 34.

NORTH REPPS.

Norris collected a large number of the Wills of the family of Rugge of North Repps. In nearly all of them directions are given for the testator to be buried in the Church. Some include legacies to the Church, but with the coming of the Reformation these benefactions cease, though the place of burial is still insisted upon. In those Protestant days the enrichment of God's House was considered of less importance than the resting place of man's body.

1508. "Robert Rugge of North Repps by his Will dated 14 Jun. 1508 and prov^d. 5 Mar. following directed to be buried in ye church of our Lady there: to Cecily his wife he gave his place at Crowmere for life and after to be sold for their souls, to Margaret his daughter his Mess[uage] in w^{ch} he lived and 20^a. of land and made Margaret his daughter and others Exor^s. and William Rugge and others Supervisors." (Reg. Slyt f. 138^a).

1511-2. "William Rugge by his Will dat^d. 6 June 1511 and prov^d. the day following [*sic*. but this is probably a mistake for 7 June, 1512, since William Rugge only died in May, 1512], directed to be buried in the Church or Churchyard of our Lady there" where his brass still remains.

"Here lyeth Willm Rugge the wych deyd the second day of May the yere of our Lord God M^oV^cXII^o of qwoos sowle God have mcy."

He bequeathed "to the Church afore^{sd}. a Vestment of the price of 5 mar." Executors "Don Will^m. Reppis a monk" [probably the infamous William Rugge *alias* Reppes, who was afterwards Bishop of Norwich] and Nicholas Flyght, clerk, rector of Mundesley, whose Will is given on a previous page. (Reg. Johnsⁿ. f. 137^b).

1514. "John Playford by his Will (dated) 18 feb. 1512, p^d. 19 May 1514 directed to be buried in the Church." Mention is made of "John his son and heir" and John Cumfrey, parson of North Repps, was supervisor. (Reg. Coppinge, f. 118^a).

1519. Sir Robert Lyttlewood, priest, by his Will dat^d. and p^d. 1519 directed "to be buried in the Chancel." (Reg. Gylys, f. 142).

1549. Nicholas Rugge directed to be buried in the Chancel, and left "to Isabel his wife the house and lands some-

times called Beckes holden of the manor of North Repps." (Reg. Wymer, f. 287^b).

1552-5. William Wayte clerk in his Will dated 1552 and proved 1558 bequeaths legacies to his cousins the Rugges.

1558-9. I will give a longer abstract of the Will of Robert Rugge, alderman of Norwich and brother of the Bishop, for the sake of the places of local interest which occur in it and also because of the curious clause in that portion which relates to the legacy to his son John, who is bidden to return from abroad with the view of obtaining the Archdeaconry of Sudbury!

Robert Rugge, Alderman of Norwich, by his Will dated 24 Dec. 1558 and proved 26 June 1559, "gave to William Rugge his son and heir his Man^r of Northreppes called Northreppes hall and also his Man^r of Hayles hall in Metton in Norff. and also his Capital Mess[uage] called Wynspoies [*sic* for Winspurs] in Northreppes and also his Tenem^t. and Lands called Cooke in the sd town, w^{ch} he late bought of Tho. Lawrence of Norw[ich] Merch[an]t." [Besides land bought from Robert Playford of Northreppes, formerly belonging to his brother Nich. Rugge, deceased, also land in Northreppes, Southreppes, Gemingham, Tremingham, Sistrond, Oxtrond, Thorpm[arket], Metton, Roughton, Cromer and Aylmer-ton] "to hold to the s^d. Will^m in tail generall to Francis Rugge, testator's 2nd son."

To Alice, his wife, he left three messuages and land in Felmingham, Antingham, Suffield and Totington.

To Francis, his 2nd son, his Manor "of Grenegates and Spysars als Berds in Hofton St. John and divers lands in many places."

To John Rugge £4 per annum "and if when he shall return fr. beyond the seas He will exercise the office of a priest as by His orders He is bound to doe, then He gave him the next Avoidance of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury and fr. his Entrance into the same" his annuity is to cease. He also left to him land and houses in Norwich and the "Lease of the Hospital of St. Giles."

William, his 3rd son, is mentioned, and also his son "Robert Rugge, Archdeacon of Suffolk" to whom he bequeathed "Burntwood" marsh, and "the Warde" in Horning "next the late dissolved house of St. Bennets in the Holme."

In addition he gave "£100 to his sons." "His daughter Themylthorpe" and Margaret Flyght are mentioned.

Thomas Rugge is left 40 [?] and "a black gown; the same to his brother Roger Rugge and Wm. his son." (Reg. Colman, f. 447^b.).

1564-6. His widow, Alice Rugge, made her Will on 28 Sep. 1564, "then surjurning with S^r. Edw. Warner at Plumstead." It was proved on Nov. 1566, and her bequests included:—

To "Dame Awdrey her da. a ruby ring and plate (etc.).

To Jeremy Blennerhasset her godson 20s.

To the poor of Felmingham 10s."

Her daughters Mary Hubbard and Helen are mentioned, as is her son Henry, and Dame Awdrey Warner is an executrix. (Reg. Folklin f. 136^b.).

1578. "Jeffery Turner, parson of Northrepps, by his Will dat^d. 23 May and prov^d. 22 Oct. 1578 directed to be buried in the Churchyard there." (Reg. Woodstocke, f. 136^a.).

SOUTH REPPES.

1373. It will be remembered that in the Will of Sir John de Reppes given on page 43 that "he gave to the High Altar of Southreppes xxs., to the Repair of the Church there 6s. 8d." and "to the nunnery of Brusyerd one of his cups." He also makes careful arrangements for his burial at the Friars Minors at Norwich, for which he orders "5 tapers and 6 torches of wax, each of the weight of 5 pound."

c. 1400. Norris tells us that "S^r Henry Reppes Kt. and Joan his wife, daughter to S^r John Fastoff were both buried in this church about 1400" but he gives no reference to their Wills.

1437. Their son Sir John de Reppes *alias* Mack of Thorpe Market "directed to be buried in the Steeple of the Church of Thorpe Market and gave to the High Altar 13s. 4d. To find the light of St. John there for one year 3s. 4d. To the Fabrick of the Church 13s. 4d. To the Rep^r. of the Steeple and the Chaple of St John 40s. To the Rep^r. of the Church of Southreppes, where his parents are buried 40s. To each Order of Fryers in Norwich 40s., a priest to celebrate 3 years in the Church

of Thorpe Market for his soul and the souls of all his friends and benefactors Taking for his salary 8 marks p. ann." (Reg. Doke, f. 18^a).

1484. "Tho^s. Powle of Southreppes by his Will p^d. 1484, [directed] to be buried in y^e Church of St. James at Southreppes and gave to the Rep^r. of y^e Church 20d." (Reg. Caston, f. 212^a).

1488. "John Talwen Parson of Southreppys by his Will dat^d. and p^d. 1488 [directed] to be buried in this Church and gave to y^e Repair thereof 5 mar." (Reg. Wolm^a. f. 4^a).

1524. "John Harward of Southrepps, gent." by his Will dated 18 Dec. and proved 31 Dec. 1524 directed to be buried "in S. where his Ex^{rs}. pleased." "His place called Newmans" he left to his son John. (Reg. Grundes b. f. 54^a).

1558. Tho. Gresham Parson of Southreppes by his Will d^d. 19 Aug. and p^d. Sept. [directed] to be buried in the Chancel there, and made Ed^{md}. Gresham gent his Executor. Wm. Becke gent and others witnesses." (Reg. Jervis f. 246^a).

1572. Wm. Becke directed "to be buried in the Church by his late wife." (Reg. Brigge, f. 628^b).

1588. "John Willson Parson of South Repps [by his Will] d^d. 20 May 1587 and p^d. 16 July 1588 [directed] to be buried in the Churchyd. there by Alice Willson his Mother and a gravestone to be laid over them." (Reg. Hornes, f. 260^a).

The Wilsons were evidently closely connected with South Repps and on the next page the Will is given of William Johnson, rector of Sidestrand, who in 1558 "directed to be buried in the Church of South Repps by his Father."

SIDESTRAND.

1383. "William Aleyn rector of Sustrond, by his Will proved a^d. 1383 gave to the ornaments of the Chancel half a mark and to the fabric of the Church half a mark." (Reg. Harsyk f. 18).

1424. "Galfridus Lecok, rector of the mediety of Sydestrand by his Will dated and proved a^d. 1424 directed his body to be buried in the Chancel here, and gave 3 rood of land lying on the South side of the parsonage to be sold and the money to be laid out in the repair of the Church." (Reg. Hyrning f. 126^a).

1538. "John Tokry late parson of S. by his Will dated 10 Sept. and proved 30 Nov. 1538 directed to be buried in the Church of St. Michael ther before the Altar of Our Lady, Sir John Benwell parson of Sydestrond [being] one of the witnesses." (Reg. Deynes, f. 35.).
1558. St. William Johnson, Parson of Sidestrand, by his Will dated 27 August and proved 1 October, 1558, "directed to be buried in the Church of South Repps by his Father and gave to the Steeple window 40s."

TRIMINGHAM.

1438. "John Garlek of Gymyngham by his Will prov^d. A^o. 1438 directed to be buried in the Church of St. John Baptist at Trymyngham and gave to the Building of the porch there 40d., To the high altar 6s. 8d., to the high altar at Gymyngham 6s. 8d." (Reg. Doke, f. 46^a.).
1553. "Robert Chapman Parson of Trymyngham by his Will dated 5 April and proved 23 June 1553 directed to be buried in the Chancel there at the south end where the altar was. Robert Blofield, Supervisor." (Reg. Wylkyns f. 48^b.).

A Norwich Will Book supplies us with the interesting information that Trimingham Church, itself dedicated to St. John Baptist, possessed some relic or image of that saint. In her Will dated 1478, Alice wife of Robt. Cook of Crostwehēt, directed "It. I wyll have a man to go a pilgrimage to St. John hys hede of Trymmyngham."⁴ In all probability the head in question did not profess to be St. John's own head, but was more likely to have been an alabaster representation of it, stone images of the kind being very common in the Middle Ages. If Trimingham Church had owned a genuine relic its fame would have extended beyond the limits of the parish and county town. A small carved and painted Head of St. John Baptist can still be seen on the screen.

TRUNCH.

1385. "Edmund Godfrey, of Trunch, Rector of the mediety of Sydestrond, by his Will dated on the feast of St. Nicholas 1385 and provd. 13 Dec. following, directed to be buried in the Church or Churchyard of Trunch." (Reg. Harsyke, f. 52^b.).

4. Blomefield, VIII, p. 179.

1480. Robert Cantell, rector of Gimingham and Trunch, by his Will "dated upon Easter day A°. 1480 and provd. the 10th of Febr. following directed to be buried in the Chancel of the Church of St. Botolph at Trunch." (Reg. Caston, f. 70^a). "He died in Sept. 1480 and lies buried in the middle of the Chancel." (Norris). Blomefield gives the inscription as:—

*"Hic jacet Mag^r. Robt. Cantell, quod rector isti eccleie,
qui obt. 1 Sept. Ao. Dni, 1480."*

- 1496-8. "John Gogill, of Trunche, by his Will dated 12 May 1496 and proved 26 Mar. 1498 directed to be buried in the Church of St. Botolph of Trunch aforesaid, and gave to the new Edification and reparation of the Perk [i.e. screen] there 5 marcs. Sr. Richd. Mytton Rector of Trunch Supervisor." (Reg. Multon, f. 77^a). John Gogill was therefore the donor (or at any rate one of the donors) of the beautiful painted screen at Trunch. He was evidently a man of property and was tenant in part of the demesne lands in 1462, besides being seized on his death of 60 acres of land held of the Manor of Gimingham.

1504. Richard Mytton, rector of Trunch, "by his Will dated 31 Jan. 1504 and proved 14 Feb. following, he directed to be buried in the Chancel of Trunch before the Image of St. Botolf." (Reg. Rixe, f. 98^a). The chancel roof appears to have been the gift of Richard Mytton and in Norris's time it carried at its base the following inscription "in large letters."

*"Orate p^aia domini Ricardi Mytton quondam Rectoris
istius Eccleie fieri fecit cuj⁹ aie p^a itiet' deus."*

He was rector from 1481 to 1504.

The principal Trunch family was named Wortes, and Norris has collected a number of their Wills in his "North Erpingham," from which a few quotations must suffice.

- 1534-5. Clement Wortis, of Trunch, by his Will "dated 13 Jan. 1534 and proved 10 Apr. 1538 . . . gave a Legacy to each of the 2 Guilds there, to the plough Light of the East end, and to the other 2 plough Lights in the said Town." (Reg. Gillyor f. 16^a).
1546. Thomas Wurts or Worts, of Trunch, yeoman, by his Will "dated 14 Nov. 1546 and provd. 14 March fol-

lowing . . . directed to be buried in the Churchyard at Trunch." (Reg. Deymes, f. 227^a.).

1608. Thomas Worts, of Trunch, yeoman, "by his Will dated 9 Jan. 1608 and provd. 18 Feb. following directed to be buried in the Churchyard there by his late wife Elizabeth." (Reg. Elflett, f. 212^b.).

1652-7. Robert Worts, of Trunch, yeoman, senior, by his Will "dated 29 March 1652 and provd. 30 Apr. 1657 . . . directed to be buried in the Churchyard at Trunch by his brother Richard Worts." (Reg. Blomefield, f. 306^b.).

The Brownings were another well-known yeoman family in Trunch, and lords of the Manor of Colmans.

1572. Thomas Browninge, junior of Trunch, by his Will "dated 9 May, 1572, and provd. 29 July following . . . directed to be buried in the Church of Trunch by the Font, about the place where Walter Browninge was buried." (Reg. Annison, f. 338^a.).

We learn from another early 15th century Trunch Will that there was formerly a Chapel dedicated to All Saints in Knapton. Robert atte Fen, of Trunch, "directed to be buried in the Churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul at Knapton and gave to the repair of the Church there 3s. 4d. and to the repair of the Chapel of All Saints ("in eadem villa") in the same town 12d." (Reg. Surfflete, f. 83^b.). From the wording of the Will it seems possible that this Chapel was not part of the parish Church, but a separate and independent building.

GUILDS AND LIGHTS.

In the Middle Ages every parish had its guilds or confraternities in which certain groups of the inhabitants were banded together in honour of their patron saint and for their own mutual benefit. The members were responsible for each other's necessities and the guild was in fact the forerunner of the friendly society. Their contributions were also used to keep the Guild Light burning perpetually in the parish Church.

The Guilds and Lights in the Soke Villages were as follows:—

GIMINGHAM.

- GUILDS. All Saints. ["Chapel of All Saints mentioned 1437,"
Blomefield.]
Our Lady.
St. Peter.
The Plough.
[There was also an "Image of St. Ann," see the Will
of Hugh Barker, 1532.]
- LIGHTS. The Light of Westgate.
The Maids' Light.
The Light of St. Nicholas.

KNAPTON.

- GUILDS. St. Peter.
St. Mary. [There was an "Image of Our Lady," see
the Will of Nicholas Larke, 1496.]
All Saints.
- LIGHTS.⁵ The Ploughlight of Woodgate.
The Ploughlight of Westgate.
The Ploughlight of Northgate.
The Ploughlight of Fengate.
The Ploughlight of Nedyrgate.
The Light of St. Nicholas.
The Light of the Cross.
The Mayds Light.

MUNDESLEY.

- GUILDS. All Saints.
St. Mary.
St. Nicholas.

NORTH REPPS.

- GUILDS. At the time of the suppression of the Guilds and
Lights North Repps is returned as having "one Gylde"
and "divers lightes."

SOUTH REPPS.

- GUILDS. St. James.
St. John Baptist.

At their suppression South Repps had six lamps and
one wax candle "burnynge in the Church of Southreppes
for ever" and endowed with land of the yearly value of
16d.

5. Particulars of an endowed Light will be found on a later page.

SIDESTRAND.

GUILDS. St. Michael.
St. Mary.

TRIMINGHAM.

GUILDS. [No particulars available].

TRUNCH.

GUILDS. St. Botolph. [There was an "Image of St. Botolph,"
see the Will of Richard Mytton, 1504.]
St. Mary.

Paston can hardly be reckoned as a Soke parish, and yet in passing it is worth drawing attention to the unusual Guild of *St. Albert*, to which Christopher Arcall bequeathed a legacy in 1505.⁶

MEMORIALS TO THE DEPARTED. In old days Church people were naturally generous to their parish Churches in their lives and in their Wills, and at their deaths it was only natural that they should be remembered within the building which they had helped to beautify. Sometimes a brass would commemorate a benefactor, as formerly in Knapton Church, where the congregation were bidden:—

"Grate y' aia Thome Frank q' dedit ad fabri[cationem]
isti ecclie xl marcas cuij aie y'pitiet de."

OBITS. Or again, they desired to be commemorated at the Services of the Church upon their death days, and so it became customary to endow "Obits" as a perpetual memorial of the departed. There were several of these Obits within the Soke parishes of which we get details in the document dealing with their suppression. From the same source we gain particulars of the remaining Guilds and Lights. The Act suppressing them was most unpopular and *The Acts of the Privy Council* record that "the Lower House did not only reason and argue against that article made for the guyldable lands, but also incensed many others to hold with them, amongst the which none were stiffer nor more busily went about to impugne the said article than the burgesses for the towne of Lynne in the County of Norfolk."⁷

6. See Knapton Wills.

7. See *Victoria History of Norfolk*, Vol. II., p. 259.

The following guilds, obits and anniversaries were annexed by the Crown in the Soke parishes.

⁸KNAPTON.

One lampe or lyghte ther kepte with the profights of ij^o Acres of londe in thoccupacon of Thomas Grene, of the yerlie value of xvjd.

One yerelye obite ther kepte with the profightes of one letill tente [tenement] conteynyn halfe a Rode of londe in thoccupacon of Thomas pranke, of the yerlie value of vs.

NORTH REPPS.

divers lyghtes there	}	kepte	}	WITH iijs. parte of the p'fichte of . . . tents in thoccupacon of ——— to the yerely charge of iijs.	
One yerly Obite ther	}	kepte	}	WITH xijd. parte of the p'fichtes of one inclosse called Thacke Yerde in thoccupacon of Willm Bar- ker At whiche Obitte was bestowed to the priest vd. And the Resyd ^{ue} vz vijd.	xijd.
One Guylde there	}	kepte	}	WITH tholle p'fights of halfe an Acre of londe in thoccupacon of Willm Worsted of the yerely value of ijs.	

8. *D. of L. Certificates of Colleges and Chantries*, No. 6. I have only transcribed so much as relates to the Soke villages, but particulars of guilds, lights and obits in the following Norfolk villages also occur in the document:—Coltishall, Thetford, Saxthorpe, Snettisham, Wighton, Weasenham, E. Bilney, Brisley, Gressenhall, Gaytonthorpe, Gayton, Stanfield, Helgrave (sic), Ryburgh Magna, Holton with Harpley, Shereford, Hillington, Toftrees, Sculthorpe, Heacham, Docking, Denver, Downham, Fincham with St. Michael, Waterwell and Outwell, Hackford, Girmston, Taverham, Frettenham, Hainford, Bodham, Letheringsett, Blakeney, Croxton, Brampton, Ingworth, Cawston, Scottowe, Gunton (Knapton q.v.), Aldby, Field Dalling, Holkham, Antingham (South Repps, North Repps, q.v.), Runton (Paston q.v.), Stiffkey ("Stukey bte Marie"), Tunstead, Fakenham and Thorpeland.

SOUTH REPPS.

One yerly Obite ther	kepte	At the charge of thowners of one closse called Iremonds yerde in the tenure of John Hobbis to the yerly charge of vjs.
One An- niu'sary ther	kepte	With the p' fights of ij ^o Acres one Rode and an halfe of londe geven to divers ffeoffees by James Skeynner to thentente that xij <i>℥</i> . pte of the profighte of the said londe shulde be yerlie given to the psonne to the Clerke iiij <i>℥</i> . to the mending of the Church iiij <i>℥</i> . And to the ffeoffees for ther labor iiij <i>℥</i> .
Londe lyenge ther	put in ffeof- fem ^t .	By John ffrost and others upon condycon that the ffeoffees shulde ffinde vj ^o lampes and one wax can- dell burnynge in the Church of Southreppes for ever which londe is of the yerlie value of xv <i>℥</i> . [and in the occupation of Robti Wase].

PASTON.

"One lampe ther, kepte with tholle profighte of one Acre." In the occupation of Thomas Woots, and of the value of iiij*℥*.

"One lampe ther, kepte" with the profits of half an acre, in the occupation of John Spencer and of the value of iiij*℥*.

CHAPTER V.

THE PILLAGE OF THE CHURCHES.

The monastic houses, their inmates, lands and revenues had been swept away by the rapacity of Henry VIII. and his unscrupulous ministers. The "Valor Ecclesiasticus" of 1535 was the prelude to the spoliation, and it remained for his son and successor to raid the treasures of the parish Churches.

Thanks to the gifts and bequests of all classes of the community, rich and poor, clerical and lay, the village Churches in Pre-Reformation times were richly and lavishly supplied with ornaments and vestments to an extent which would astonish the modern Churchman.

Nowadays we are used to a certain magnificence in the worship and furnishing of town Churches, but we hardly expect to find in the remote country Churches any traces of colour or elaboration of ornament, in fact, the average Churchman would consider such things "out of place in a little, simple village Church."

"Autres temps, autres mœurs"—and once upon a time nothing was thought too beautiful or costly to be dedicated to the service of God in the parish Church by every rank of parishioner. And so it came to pass that the country Churches grew rich in the adornments which the countrymen had given to them, and the countrymen in their turn grew proud of the Churches which they and their ancestors had helped to beautify. The accumulation of the generosity of generations made a magnificent total, and one evil day the valuable treasures of the country Churches attracted the attention and the cupidity of the royal ministers.

The blame for the spoiling of the Churches cannot fairly be laid at the door of the young king, Edward VI. He reaped no benefit from the pillage, and probably his Protestant education made him regard the destruction of ornaments as wholly praiseworthy. It is upon his ministers that we must lay the guilt of taking from the village men not only the gifts which they had offered to the Church, but worse still of killing in them that personal love and interest in the Church, its services and its ornaments, which was undoubtedly a real feature of village life in the old days. Commissioners were appointed for each county to draw up inventories of the possessions of every parish Church, ostensibly with a view to the removal of such goods as were

no longer required in the reformed services. As a matter of fact the Church property was destined to enrich the ministers of the Crown, and it is significant that the inventories are included in the records of the Augmentation Office, that new department created by Henry VIII. to deal with the augmentation of revenue which the dissolution of the monasteries had brought to him.

The Commissioners sent to North Norfolk were Sir William Fermor, Sir John Robsart, Sir Christopher Heydon, Robert Berney, Osbert Mountford, and John Calibut. In each village certain of the inhabitants represented the other parishioners and the interests of the Church. As a rule the churchwardens seem to have acted, and in the cases of Gimingham, North Repps and South Repps the parsons too took part in the compiling of the inventories. The lists of valuables and vestments make melancholy reading, for in most cases only the Chalice and "the least belle" are "assigned to be occupied and used in the administracion of Divine Service."

The inventories consist of lists of the Church plate, vestments, hangings and bells. In addition, at Trimingham mention is made of two pairs of candlesticks and a cross "of laten," at Knapton of "on[e] Crose Sylver parcel gilte," "a great paier of candilstikkes called standerdes and a paier of small candilstikkes called processioners" and at South Repps "one crosse of copper and gilte and iij basonz of laten." From this it will be seen that crosses and candlesticks were by no means universally used in Churches in Pre-Reformation times, in fact in the case of the parishes with which we are dealing the majority of the Churches were lacking in these ornaments.

Knapton, North Repps and South Repps owned the richest sets of vestments, but every Church seems to have had an ample supply both of copes and chasubles. As to colour, the vestments were many hued and evidently no scheme of special canonical colours was in force, probably the best and most beautiful were used for the greatest Festivals, irrespective of colour.

The Commissioners visited the Soke parishes in September and October, 1552. They were at Gimingham, Mundesley, North Repps, South Repps, Sidestrand and Trimingham on 2nd September, and at Knapton and Trunch on 2nd October. The inventories which they then made are as follows:—

[AUGMENTATION OFFICE. MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS 504].

[Extended transcript].

[A.D. 1552].

HUNDRED OF NORTH ERPINGHAM.

fol. 129. TREMYNGHAM. This inventorie indented, made the *ij^d*. daye of September in the syxt yere of the range of our most dread sovereign lord Edward the Sixt, by the grace of God of Ingland, France and Ireland, King, Defendor of the faith, and in earthe of the churche of Ingland and Ireland the supreme hedd, betwyn William Fermor, John Robsart and Christofer Heydon, knightes, Robert Barney, Osberd Mounford and John Calibut, commissioners, emonges other assigned by vertue of the Kinge's Majestie's commission to them directed for the survey of churche goodes in Norfolk on th'one parte; and Thomas Powle and Robert Grime, churche wardens there, Robert Braye and John Blowfeld, inhabitaunce of the seid towne, on th'other parte. Witnessith that there remaynith in the custodie of the seid churche wardens and other, these parcelles of goodes underwreten.

In primis, one chales of silvir with a patent parcell gilt, conteyning *xiiij* ownce, valued at *iijs. viij^d*.—summa *ljs. iiij^d*.

Item, a paxe of silver conteyning *vj* ownce, valued at *iijs. iiij^d*. the ownce—summa *xxs.*

Item, *ij* owlde copis of grene silk, a vestiment of grene silke with an albe, valued at *vjs.*

Item, one ould vestiment of tawney silk with an albe, *ij* tunicles of grene silk, valued at *iijs.*

Item, *ij* candilstikkcs of laten, weying *viiij^{li.}*, valued at *xd.*

Item, *ij* other candilstikkcs and a crosse of laten, valued at *xxd.*

Item, *iiij* belles in the stepill, the letill belle weying *c. di.* [one hundredweight and a half], the *ii^d*. belle *ij^o. di.* [two hundredweight and a half], the *iiij^{de}* bell *iiij^o* [three hundredweight] by estimation, valued at *xvs.* the hunderd—sum *vli. vs.*

Item, *ij* belle claperes weying *vij^{li.}* (?) valued at *iijs. iiij^d*.

Whereof is assigned to be occupied and used in th'administracion of Divine Service there the seid chales with the patent and the grete belles.

In witnes whereof the seid commissioners and other the seid persons to this inventories alternately have put ther handes the daye and yere abovesaid.

Jhens Blofeld.

By me Ro: Gryme.

/ _____ /

12. SYDISTRON. This inventory indented, made the second daye of September in the sixt yere of the reigne of our most dread soverayne lord Edward the Sixt, by the grace of God King of Englund, Fraunce and Ireland, Defender of the Faythe, and of the churche of Englonde and also of Ireland in earthe the supreme head, betwen William Fayrmor, John Robsart, Christofer Haydon, knightes, Osbart Moundford, Robert Barney, esquyers, comissioners, amonges other, assigned by vertwe of the Kinge's Majestie's comission to them directed for the survey of churche goodes in Norffolk, of th'on partye; and Adam Athaythe, Gregory Spylman, Richard Crismas the forsaid towne, of th' other partye. Witnessyth there remayne in the custodye of Adam Athaythe, Richard Cristmas, the daye and yere above written, theis parcelles underwretten.

Inprimis, one challes with a patent of sylver parcell gylt, wayeng xj ownce, and every ownce valued at iijs. viij*d*.—xls. iiij*d*.

Item, a cryssematory of sylver parcell gylt, wayeng xj ownce, valued at iijs. viij*d*.—xls. iiij*d*.

Item, iij vestmentes, wherof one of readd velvet, another of whyte damaske, another of read crwell, valued at vs.

Item, iij copes, wherof one of readde velvet, another of whyte damaske, anothe of grene cruell, valued at viijs.

Item, ij stepelle belles wayeng by estimacion vj^c. whereof one of iij^c. di., another of ij^c. di., valued at xvs. the hundred—iiij*li*. xs.

Item, one clapper—xiiij*d*.

Item, ij handbelles wayenge vij*li*., valued at xd. ob.

Wherof assigned to be occupied and used in the administracion of Devyne Service the said challes and the least belle.

In witness wherof the said comissioners and others the said persons to theis indenturs alternatly have putte their handes the daye and yere above wretten.

W.....

By me Wellm

34. TRONCHE. This indenture indented and made y^e seconde daie of October in y^e sixte yeare of y^e reynge of our sover . . . lorde Edwarde y^e Sixte, by the grace of God Kinge of Englonde, Fraunce and Irelande, Defendor of y^e F..... and in earthe the supreme hedde of y^e churche of Englund and Irelande, betwixte Sir William Ferm....., Sir John Robsarte, Sir Christofer Heydon, knyghtes, Osborne Mumford, Robarte Barney and John Calibut, esquyers, comissioners, amongst others, assigned by virtue of y^e Kinge's Majestie's commission to them dyrected for y^e survey of y^e churche goodes

within y^e countie of Norffolk, on y^e one partie; and Thomas Bolte and Richarde Wydder and William Brownyng, on y^e other partie. Witnesseth that there remayneth in y^e custodie off y^e persons above wrytten all the parsells ondre wryten.

In primis, one payre of chalyce parcell gylte, weinge xiiij ounces—xlvijs. viij*℥*.

Item, iiij coopes, j of red velvett viijs., an other of russet velvet vs., y^e iiij^{de} of red satten ijs. iiij*℥*., y^e iiij^{te} of whyte silke vs. iiij*℥*.

Item, j vestment of red velvet with an aube, iijjs.

Item, one vestment of whyte sylke, ijs. iiij*℥*.

Item, one vestment of grene sylke, ijs.

Item, one vestment of blacke worsted, xx*℥*.

Item, a canapie clothe of blacke and tawnyne damaske, x*℥*.

Item, one aulter clothe of grene and red silke, ijs.

Item, a lecterne clothe of whyte damaske, xv*℥*.

Item, one aultre clothe of blacke velvet, vs.

Item, one aultre clothe of blewe sylke, ijs.

Belles thre, whereof y^e greate bell weyth by estymacion viij^o., y^e seconde bell vij^o., y^e thred v^o.—xv*℥*.

Item, ij clappers weynge by estymacion pounce—iijjs.

Item, ij handbells weynge by estimacion vj poundes—xviij*℥*.

Assigned to be occupied and used in y^e admynistracion of Dyvyne Service there y^e chalyce, weinge xiiij ounces, and y^e leste bell.

In witnes whereof y^e saied commissioners and other persons aforenamed to these present indentures alternatelye have put to their handes that daie and yeare above wrytten.

Thomas Bolte.

Wyll: Brownyng.

fol. 137. MUNDISLEY.

This inventrie indented made the ij^{de} daye of September in the vj^{te} yere of the rainge of our most dread soveraign lord Edward the Sixt, by the grace of God of Ingland, France and Ireloñd, King, Defendor of the Faith, and in erth of the churche of Ingland and Ireloñd the supreme hedde, betwyn William Fermor, John Robsert and Christofer Heydon, knyghtes, and Robert Barney, Osbert Mounford and John Calibut, esquiers, commissioners, emonges other, by vertu of the Kinge's Majestie's commission to them directed for the survey of the churche goodes in Norffolk, on the one parte; and Nicholas Pratte and William Isokke, churche wardens there, Robert Beter and Nicholas Aleyn, parissheoneres of the seid towne, on th'other parte. Witnessith that there remaynith in the custodie of the seid churche wardens and other these parcelles of goodes under wreten.

In primis, one chales with a patent of silver, weying by estimacion viij ounces, at iijs. viij*d*. the ounce—summa xxixs. iiij*d*.

Item, one vestment of whight silke and one cope of whight silke, valued at vjs. viij*d*.

Item, one owld cope of redde saten and one owld cope of fusthin, valued at iijs. iiij*d*.

Item, ij belles weying by estimacion ix^c., the one iiij^c. and the other v^c., valued at xvs. the c.—summa vj*li*. xvs.

Item, j belle claper, valued at ijs.

Whereof is assigned to be occupied and used in th'administracion of Divine Service there the seid chales and the belle weying iiij^c waight.

In witnes whereof the seid commissioners and other the seid persons to this inventrie alternatly have put ther handes the daye and yere abovesaid.

[marks].

—————/

fol 146. NORTHEREPPES. This indenture indented mad the secunde day of Septembr' in the sexte yer of the raigne of our soveraigne lord Kyng Edward the Sixte, by the grace of God of Ynglond, France and Erlond Kyng, Defender of the Faith, and in erthe supreme heed of the churche of Ynglond and also of Erlond, betwyne William Fermer, John Robsert, Christofer Heydon, knyghtes, Robert Barney and Osborne Mowmeforthe, esquyres, amonges other comyssioneres appoyntyd by vertue of the Kynge's Majestie's comyssion appoyntyd for the survey of the churche goodes, on the oon parte; and Henry Tudnham, clerke, and John Toly and John Archer, churchwardens, Thomas Gray, Robert Playford, Thomas Marche and Robert Alyn, inhabiteres of the said towne, of the other parte. Wytenessyth that the particuleres underwrytten remaynyth in the handes of the said towne above wrytten.

In primis, oon chalys parcell gylt, weying xiiij ounces di., and iijs. viij*d*. for every ounce—
liijs. ij*d*.

Item, oon chalys parcell gylt, weying xij ounces, and iijs. viij*d*. for every ounce—xliiij*s*.

Item, oon reed velvett coope, vs.

Item, oon tawny sylke coope, xx*d*.

Item, oon blew sylke coope, viij*d*.

Item, oon cope of cloth of badkyn, xx*d*.

Item, oon coope of purple velvet,

Item, oon purple velvet vestement, vs.

iiij*li*. xvijs. ij*d*.

Item, oon vestement of grene damaske, iijs.

Item, oon vestement of tawny sylke, iijs.

Item, oon westement of blew saten, xx*d*.

Item, oon vestement of clothe of badkyn, xij*d*.

Item, thre steple belles weving, by estymacyon, xxx^c. whereof the great bell xv^c., the mydle belle ix^c., and the lyttyll bell vj^c. ; the price of every hundred xvs.—xxij*li*. xs.

Item, ij steple bell clapperes weying, by estimacion, sex stone, the price of every ston xij*d*. [vjs. erased] iijs.

Item, too hand belles, xvj*d*.

Wherof assignyd to be occupied in the mynistracion of Dyvyne Service ther the said chales of xij ounces and the lest bell in the steple.

In wyttenes wherof the said commyssioneres and other the said persons to these alternately have putte ther handes the day and yer above wrytten.

per Robertu Alyn.

per me Hericu Tudina.

fol. 149. GYMMYNGHAM.

This inventory iñdented made y^e second day of September in y^e sext yere of y^e reign of our sovereign lord Edward y^e Sext, by the grace of God King of Ing-lond, Fraunce and Ireland, Defendor of the Fayth, and in erth of y^e churche of Inglond and Ireland y^e supreme hedd, betwen Wylliam Fermor, John Robsart, Christofer Haydon, knyghtes, Osborne Moundeford, Robert Barney and John Calybut, esquiers, commis-sioners, amonges other, assigned by vertue of y^e Kinge's Majestie's commission to them dyrected for the survey of churche goodes wythin y^e county of Norfolk, on th'on partye; and Rychard Lache, parson of Gymmyngham aforesaid, Thomas Johnson, Robert Skerwith, Robert Gryme and William Trusbut, of Gymmyngham aforesaid, of th'other parte. Wytnessyth that ther remayne in y^e custodie of y^e said parson and paryshners y^e day and yere above wryton theys goodes and ornamentes herunder wrytton, *videlicet* :—

Item, one chaleys with a patent of sylver parcell gylt, wayeng xv ounce, and every ounce valued at iijs. iiij*d*.—lxvs.

Item, one other chaleys with a patent of silver, wayeng tenne ounces and di., every ounce valued at iijs. iiij*d*.—xxxvs.

Item, too vestimentes with deacon and sub-deacon of damaske, valued at xxs.

Item, too copes of whyte damaske, valued at xiijs. iiij*d*.

Item, one vestiment with y^e awbe of red saten, valued at vs.

Item, one corperus clothe with y^e casse of blak velvet, valued at xvj*d*.

Item, iij belles in y^e steple, wayeng, by estimacion, xvij^o., wherof one wayeth iiij^o., y^e second vj^o., y^e third vij^o., and every hundred valued at xvs.—summa xij*li*. xvs.

Item, ij bell clappers, valued at ijs.

Item, one lytle sacre bell, wayeng ij*li*., valued at vjd.

Item, too handbelles, wayeing by estimacion viij*li*., valued at xij*l*.

Wherof ys assigned by y^e said commissioners to be occupied and used in the administracion of Devyne Sarvyce there y^e said chaleys of x ounce di. and the bell of iiij^o.

In wytnes wherof the said commissioners and other y^e said persons abovenamed to these inventories alternately have put ther handes y^e day and yere abovewryton.

By me, Richard Lache, parsun of Gymyngham,
William Trusbut, Robert Gryme.

fol 50. KNAPTON. This indenture indentyd made the seconde daie of October in the sixte yere of the reigne of our soveraigne lorde Edwarde the Sixte, by the grace of God King of Englonde, Fraunce and Irlonde, Defendor of the Faithe, and in earthe supreme hedde of the churche of Englande and Irelande, betwixte Sir William Fermor, Sir John Robsart, Sir Christofer Heydon, knightes, Osborne Momford, Robert Barneye and John Calibute, esquiers, commyssioners, amongst other, assigned by vertue of the Kinge's Majestie's comyssion to them directed for the surveye of the churche goodis within the countie of Norffolk, on th'on partie; and Thomas Grene, John Kinge and William Fenne, on th'other partie. Witnessithe that ther remayn in ther custodie the goodis underwritten.

In primis, on crose sylver and parcel gilte, weyinge xxvj ounces, at iijs. viij*l*. the ounce—summa iiij*li*. xvs. iiij*l*.

Item, on chalece of silver parcell gylt, weyinge ix ounces and a quarter, at iijs. viij*l*. the ownce—xxxiijs. x*l*.

Item, a coope of crymsyne velvet vjs. viij*l*., on of blue velvet vs., on of whyet damaske iiijjs., on of crymsyne satten ijs., on of brydges, on of blake wursted xx*l*., on of grene cruell xx*l*., on of baye color xv*l*., and of dornyxe xij*l*.—xxjs. iiij*l*.

Item, a vestment of crymsyne velvet with a deakon inbroderyd with golde, and the albys therto belongynge, xs., on of blue velvet with ij deakons imbroderyd with golde and the albys therto belongynge xs., on of whyet damaske and ij deakons imbroderyd with golde and the albeys therto belonginge vjs. viij*l*., on of blake wursted with ij deakons and the albys therto belonginge vjs. viij*l*., on of baye color

with a deakon ijs., ij of whyet fustyan and the albeis therto belonging xl*℥*., on of baye sylke imbroderyd with birdes of gold xx*℥*., on cannapie of satten of bridges imbroderyd xl*℥*., and on bere clothe of blue wursted vs.—summa lvs. iiij*℥*.

Item, iij belles weyinge by estimacion, *videlicet*, the great belle tenne hundred, the second bell vij^o. and the littill bell v^o. ; iij handbelles xviiij*li*., at xvs. the hundred, } xvij*li*. xs.

Item, a great paier of candilstikkcs called standerdes, and a paier of small candilstikkcs called processioners, thirty pounce at j*℥*. a pounce—ijs. vj*℥*.

Wherof assigned to be occupied and used in the admynistracion of Dyvyne Servys ther the chalyce weyinge ix ounces and a quarter and on bell v^o.

In witnes wherof the said commyssioners and other persons abovenamed to th. . indentures alternatlie have putt ther handes the daie and yere abovewre

per me, T. Grene. per me, John King.

fol. 155. SOUTHREPPES. This inventarie indented made the secunde day of September in the vj yer of the reigne of sovereign lord Edward the VI., by the grace of God Kyng of Ingland, Fraunce and Ireland, Defender of the Feith, and in th'erthe of the churche of Ingland and of Iryland supreme head, attwyn (*sic*) William Fermor, John Robsart, Christopher Heydon, knightes, Osborne Momford, Robert Barney and John Calybut, esquyers, commyssioners, emong other, assigned by virtue of the Kynge's Majestie commyssion to them directed for the survey of churche goodes in Norffolk, of the one partie; and of Thomas Gresham, clerk, curat there, Ric : Bateman, Thomas Benyngton, John Herward, gentleman, and Thomas Fliyft, of th'other partye. Wyttinessith that there do remayn in ther custody these goodes underwretyn.

In primis, ij chales with ij patynez of silver, wherof j parcell gilte weyeing xj ounces iij quarters, at iijs. viij*℥*.—xliijs. j*℥*.—and the other all gilte weyeing xj ounces j quarter, at iijs. iiij*℥*.—xlviijs. ix*℥*.—iiij*li*. xjs. x*℥*.

Item, iij stuple belles, weyeng by estymacion xxxviij^o., wherof the great belle xvj^o., the myddell xij^o., and the lytell bell x^o., the c. at xvs.—xxviij*li*. xs.

Item, j saunce belle ijs. vj*℥*. ; ij belle clappers viijs.—xs. vj*℥*.

Item, j crosse of copper and gilte with a fote xx*℥*. ; iij basonz of laten xij*℥*.—ijs. viij*℥*.

Item, j cope of crymsen velvet xls., j of blak velvet xijs. iiij*℥*., j of blewe sylk vjs. viij*℥*., j of white damask vjs. viij*℥*., j of blewe damask vjs. viij*℥*., j of blew sylk ijs. iiij*℥*., j of chamlet x*℥*., ij of derynykes ijs., iij for childern of derynykes ijs.—iiij*℥*. ijs. iiij*℥*.

Item, j vestment of crymsen velvet with ij tunycles xls., j of white damask with ij tunycles xs., j of changeable sylk with ij tunycles vs., j of chamlet with ij tunycles ijs., j powdered with birdes (?), j of briges saten redde vjs. viij*℥*., j of blak worsted with sterres ijs., j of blewe silk js. and ij of white bustian ijs., j of blewe derynykes with vj albes xij*℥*. and iiij banner clothe ijs.—lxxvjs.

Wherof assigned to be occupied and used admyinstracion of Dyvnye Service the seyde chales and wey xj ounces iij quarters, the little belle wayeinge x^o., j clapper for the same, ij surplices, iiij rochettes, ij tableclothes, j towel and j hersecloth.

In wyttenss wherof the seid commyssioners and th'other persones abovenamed to these inventaries indented alternatly have put ther hands the day and yer abovewretyn.

By me, Tho^{as} Gresham, clerk.

By me, John Harward.

The final act in the tragedy of the parish Churches is contained in a Privy Council order dated October, 1553, a few months after Mary's accession, wherein Sir William Fermour and others are bidden "to redeliver such Church goods as by them, by virtue of a commission, were taken from the parishes within the county of Norfolk, to such parishes from whence they were taken, and to send up such sums of money to the Council for such goods as they have sold."¹ The new sovereign evidently tried her best to restore the Church property which her father's and brother's ministers had stolen, but I surmise that by this time very little of it remained to be given back, and that even if the Council got the money which had been paid for them, the village Churches got nothing at all.

1. *Acts of the Privy Council*, VI., 123.

CHAPTER VI.

POST-REFORMATION CLERGY.

The Reformation worked a fundamental change in the position of the English Church, and yet it is significant that it caused but few alterations amongst the Norfolk incumbents. Either they were all in full sympathy with the Reformation, and therefore ready enough to conform, or else they preferred their benefices to their consciences—but in any case few, if any, resigned or were deprived.

At Gimingham alone amongst the Soke parishes was there any apparent trouble with the priest. Richard Lache or Larke had been appointed by the Prior and Convent of Lewes, in 1531, and during the first few years of the Reformation he seems to have accepted the new forms of religion, and in 1559 he duly subscribed his name at the Southern Visitation. However, in 1564 he was deprived of the living and a more Protestant rector was appointed in his stead by Peter Rede.¹

In the other Soke parishes the break with the old traditional faith is suggested by the fact that at Knapton and Trunch new rectors were appointed in 1548, while in the lists of Mundesley and Trimingham rectors there are several gaps during the 16th century.

The rector of Mundesley in 1563 was William Pulleyn, Chaplain to Henry, third Lord Cromwell,² and held the living in conjunction with that of Farndon, Notts. In 1564 his patron writes the following letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury praying that his chaplain may hold both rectories at the same time, in spite of them being more than thirty miles apart.

³"It may please your good grace to be aduertised that wheras I haue admitted into my house one William Pulleyne clerke parson of mondesleye in the countye of norff' a manne of gravitye & good bringinge vppe vppon whome I wolde gladlye bestowe another meane livinge not farre from me w^{ch} nowe wth your good graces fauor he maye enioye & beinge a sutor to yo^r officer for his dispensacion in this behalfe not wthstandinge as I take it yt is of comon course

1. See the lists in *The Elizabethan Clergy*, by H. Gee.

2. Henry, 3rd Lord Cromwell, was the eldest son of Gregory, 2nd Lord Cromwell, and grandson of Thomas Cromwell. The barony had been forfeited after Thomas Cromwell's attainder in 1539, but it was re-granted to his son Gregory in 1540.

3. *Corpus Christi College MS.* 114, p. 303.

graunted as a thinge lymited by authoriye of parliamente to be hadde for suche as be clerkes to menne of my callinge, yet your said officer refusethe wthout your especiall Lres [letters] to grante dispensacion to my said chapleyne in this case alledginge y^e same not to be ordinarily granted bicause of the distance of the benefices aboute thirtye myles asonder. It is not to be dowted but that my sayde chapleyne wille provide this his cure in norff' shalbe sufficient-lye discharged & this aboute me shalbe serued cheyflye by him self. And both livinges beinge vnder fyftene poundes in y^e Quenes heighnes bookes are scarce livinges for an honeste manne. Yt may please your grace therfore to directe your Lres to your said officer for my said Chapleynes dispatche. And so takege my leaue of yo^r grace I bidde you farewell. ffrom y^e Austen fryers in London this xixth of Aprell A^o 1564.

Yo^r graces allwayes to
comaund Henry Crumwell."

The rectory of Trunch was held from 1566 to 1572 by a man of notoriety—John Salisbury, monk, dean and bishop. Dr. Jessopp calls him "a man of learning and some mark" and tells his story in the following words:—"He had been a student at both universities, and a Benedictine monk at Bury St. Edmunds. Here he incurred the suspicion of heresy, and for some years was kept under restraint by order of Cardinal Wolsey. Henry VIII. appointed him Prior of the monastery of St. Faith at Horsham, near Norwich, and subsequently, in 1536, Suffragan Bishop of Thetford. In 1537, we find him Archdeacon of Anglesey; in 1538, a Canon of Norwich Cathedral; next year he was installed Dean. His deanery he continued to hold, with the archdeaconry and other rich preferments, till the accession of Queen Mary, when he was deprived for being married. At the accession of Queen Elizabeth he was restored. About the year 1565 he preached a sermon in Norwich Cathedral, which created at the time a great sensation, and so provoked the gentry of the county that he was accused of favouring the old religion, and was for a time suspended once more from his deanery. [We may assume that it was then that he accepted and moved to the rectory of Trunch. C.M.H.]. He managed to defeat the machinations of his enemies, and in 1571 received a dispensation from Archbishop Parker to hold the bishopric of Sodor and Man, the Deanery of Norwich, the Archdeaconry of Anglesey, and the Rectories of Thorpe-super-Montem in the Diocese of Lincoln, and of Diss in the Diocese of Norwich, all which he seems to have retained till his death."⁴

4. Jessopp, *One Generation of a Norfolk House*, 3rd edit., pp. 67 and 68.

In 1583 the Queen seems to have appointed one of the numerous foreign Protestant refugees to the living of North Repps. His name was Libertus Alman, and it has an unpleasantly foreign ring in it!

It has been said that the status of the clergy was lowered after the Reformation, and that they were often illiterate and ignorant. The Soke parishes, however, seem to have been fortunate in their parsons, judging from a MS., dated 1592-3, which gives a list of all the Norfolk clergy of the period.⁵ In this list the rural deaneries of Waxham and Repps are placed together. They contained forty clergy, of whom twelve were graduates, twenty-eight were non-graduates and fifteen were pluralists. This seems a poor record enough, but if we turn to the parishes with which we are concerned we find that there, at any rate, the parsons were mostly men of education.

"Robert Thexton, R. of Trunche, M. of Artes, preacher.

Samuell Grenewaye, R. of Gimingham, M. of Artes, Preacher.

James Matchett, R. of Mundesley, Noe Grad[uate], and Rec. of Trymingham.

Thomas Nobbs, R. de Sydestrand and Overstrand, Bacch. of Artes.

Andrew Carr, Rec. of North Repps, M. of Artes."⁶

Curiously enough the rectors of Knapton and South Repps are omitted from the list. At the former parish was the Reverend Godfrey Pendleton, appointed by the Queen, and at the latter no less a personage than the Reverend Samuel Otes, "Chaplain to Sir Francis Walsingham, Sir John Popham, Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Chief Justice Hobart, author of *An Explanation of the General Epistle of Jude*, delivered in 41 sermons, preached on y^e Market Day Lecture at N. Walsham, published by his son, of both names, rector of Marsham, London, 1633."⁷ This notable man was also a nominee of the Queen's. Several persons named Oates or Otes occur in the North Repps Registers of this period, including a Timothy Oates, and Mr. Rye has surmised that they may have been the ancestors of the notorious Titus!⁸

From the year 1572 to 1660 the living of Trunch was held by members of the local clerical and landowning family of Thexton, of which particulars are given in Part III.

5. *A list of the Norfolk Clergy and their Status*, 35 Eliz. 1592-3. *N. and N. Arch. Papers*, XVIII.

6. *Ibid.*

7. *N. Exp.*, p. 626.

8. See *Norfolk Families*.

Lancelot Thexton, rector 1572 to 1588, was a B.A., S.T.B., a prebendary of Norwich (in succession to the bitter Protestant Edmund Chapman, deprived in 1576), and a country gentleman bearing arms.

Meanwhile at Gimingham the Reverend John Machet was rector. He belonged to just such another family as the Thextons, owning land in the Soke and marrying into the yeoman families of the neighbourhood. This poor man "was troubled with a loathing of his meat [and] dyed about May or June, 1591." He was probably the father of the Reverend James Matchett, rector of Mundesley and Trimingham, 1584 to 1613, whose misdeeds are told on another page.

Of Church life at the period we know but little. In 1603 Archbishop Whitgift commissioned all the Bishops of the province of Canterbury to find out "the number of communicants throughout all their dioceses, and what number there was of recusants; also the names of such as held two benefices, the number of impropriations in every diocese and how they were served; what parsonages that had vicarages belonging to them, and the values; who the patrons were of the several livings." The late Dr. Jessopp discovered some of the Norwich diocesan returns in the British Museum, and those for the Archdeaconry of Norwich were printed in Volume X. of "Norfolk Archæology."⁹ Unfortunately the returns for the Archdeaconry of Norfolk, in which the Soke parishes were then included,¹⁰ seem to have disappeared, so that we lack any detailed account of them. Blomefield and Le Neve, however, evidently had access to the lost document, which they describe as "The Answers of the Parsons," and have preserved for us most of the statistics giving the number of communicants in each parish. It must be remembered that the figures refer to persons of an age to communicate rather than to regular communicants. In fact Dr. Jessopp goes so far as to say that "the *communicants comprised the whole body of the adult inhabitants*—who were all bound to receive the Sacrament on certain occasions under heavy penalties—and who, if they did not receive it, were classed under the head of Recusants, and stigmatised accordingly."¹¹ The number of communicants in the Soke villages were as follows, according to Blomefield and Le Neve:—

9. He states that the returns for the Archdeaconries of Suffolk and Sudbury are bound up in the same volume. *Harl. MS.*, No. 26, fo. 94.

10. The Rural Deanery of Repps was transferred to the Archdeaconry of Norwich in 1894.

11. *Norf. Arch.*, Vol. X., p. 2.

Gimingham	...	35,	Blomefield ... 85, Le Neve.
Knapton	...		(figures not given by either).
Mundesley	...	85	
North Repps	...	160	
South Repps	...		(figures not given by either).
Sidestrand	...	59	
Trimingham	...		(possibly included with Mundesley).
Trunch	...	152	

The Elizabethan settlement had hardly had time to take permanent root before the troubles of the Civil War brought with them a second revolution in things religious. The Norfolk clergy suffered greatly at the hands of the Puritan commissioners, and amongst the eighty who were ejected from their livings were the rectors of Knapton, Mundesley and Swafield.

We do not know much about the Reverend Richard Howes, of Knapton, except that "he had a wife and two children."¹²

The Mundesley parson was the Reverend John Tenison, who also held the living of Topcroft. He was ejected from Mundesley in 1642, but returned to his two parishes in 1662, and died in 1671. His predecessor, John Nowell, S.T.B., was another High Churchman, and a supporter of Matthew Wren, bishop of Norwich, who shared with him the particular hatred of the Puritans. After the sequestration of the benefice of Mundesley, the Commonwealth Committee appointed "one *Gubbard*, who was some time afterwards discovered to be a *Roman Catholick*, and again dismissed by the same Committee at *Norwich*, which at first Thrust him into the Living."¹³ After Gubbard's departure another nominee of the Commonwealth named Robert Bidbank was called *rector* of Mundesley. He died in 1661 and was buried in the chancel of the church, his monument (according to Norris) bore the following inscription:—

"Here lieth the Body of
Robert Bidbank Senior
Preacher of the Gospel in
this Town, who died the
15th of April 1661
Aetat Suae 34."

Yet another Puritan was appointed to Mundesley before the return of the rightful rector, Paul Amyraut or Amirant being in possession of it until Tenison's reinstatement in 1662.

¹². Walker, *The Sufferings of the Clergy* (1714), p. 271.

¹³. *Ibid.*, p. 380.

Tenison was the father of Archbishop Tenison, or, as Walker puts it, "the present Archbishop of *Canterbury* is Son to this worthy Sufferer."¹⁴

The history of the Reverend Thomas Campbell of Swafeld must be given in full.

"An ancient Clergyman who Personally knew him, and that too under his *Sufferings*, hath informed me, that after he was *sequestred*, and Driven from his *Living* by the Earl of Manchester, about 1643, he retired to the Neighbouring Village of *Bradfield*, and there lived in a poor *Cott*; where this Clergyman not long after made him a visit, in a Season of very cold frost and deep Snow. He found him in his Study reading *Gerhard's Harmony*. He had with him at that time a Wife and Four Children, without Fire or Firing. This Clergyman being weary and dry with his walk, took the freedom to ask for a Draught of Beer. Upon which Mr. *Campbell* took him to the Window, and pointing to a little Rill which ran by the House, told him he might go there and drink as much as he pleased; for that himself had had no other Liquor to drink for some months past. After which his Friend asked him for something to Eat; to which Mr. *Campbell* reply'd that he had neither *Bread*, nor *Butter*, nor *Cheese*, nor *Fish*, nor *Flesh* in his House; and that he wanted *all these*, and *Firing* also, for many Weeks. But leading him to an old Churn and opening it, he shew'd him two or three *Puddings*, which he said were made of Barley (and indeed their Colour and the Coarseness of their Looks abundantly confirm'd it); upon which (as hard and cold as Frost could make them) and Water, Mr. *Campbell* assur'd his Friend he had liv'd for some time The whole of his Discourse was with such an Heroical *Christian Bravery*, and with such an Elated Sprightliness, as if he had just been advanc'd to some Great Honour or Happiness. Nor were these the worst of his *Circumstances*. For he must at last have starv'd outright, had not this Gentleman with the Assistance of some Friends, supported him until the *Restoration*; the happy Effects of which he liv'd but a little while to Enjoy, as dying about a Year or two after. He had been a Soldier under *Gustavus Adolphus*, and was a *Stout*, as well as a *Prudent*, and *Honest Man*, a very good Scholar in most Parts of Learning, very Hospitable whilst he held his Living, a perfect honest man in all his Dealings; very patient and cheerful under the double misery of his *Sequestration* and the *Strangury*: All which made his memory grateful in his Parish, as it continues to this very Day."¹⁵

14. *Ibid.*

15. *Ibid.*, pp. 222-3.

The persecution of poor Mr. Campbell was only one instance among many. One of his North Norfolk brethren, the Reverend Thomas Reeve, D.D., rector of Alborough and Colby, suffered still worse at the hands of the Puritans, led by his neighbour Major Raymes, of Overstrand, who not only sacked the Rectory, destroyed the garden, made off with his library, household goods, and cattle, but also turned Mrs. Reeve and six children out of doors, and carried off Dr. Reeve to Norwich gaol.¹⁶

Meanwhile the rector of Sidestrand, the Reverend Rice Allison, seems to have been distinctly Puritan in his views. He had been married on 23rd May, 1642, at Sidestrand to Joyce Topcliffe, who may very possibly have been of the same family as the notorious Topcliffe, hunter and torturer of recusants during the Elizabethan period. Besides holding the living of Sidestrand from 1639 to 1661, he is also described as "minister of Cley-juxta-Mare" and in that capacity signed his name to the "Attestation of the ministers of the county of Norfolk and city of Norwich in vindication of the Ancient Truths of Jesus Christ, and Prosecution of the Solemn Covenant, against the spreading errors and prodigious blasphemies that are scattered abroad in these licentious dayes, as it was Represented to the Ministers of the Province of London, 9 June, 1648." Other signatories were "Edward Brome, minister of Southrepps" and "Richard Breviter, minister of Walcott."¹⁷ Richard Breviter or Breuiter seems also to have occasionally taken charge of the parish of Sidestrand at this time, for we find him solemnising marriages there and signing the Register on several occasions in 1651 and 1653. He is there styled "minister at Noth Walsham."

Sidestrand and South Repps had another link with the Puritans in the person of Christopher Amyraut, once pastor of New Buckenham, who, being evicted at the Restoration, settled at South Repps and "ended his life and labours" in ministering to a small congregation there. Three of his children were buried at Sidestrand, Rebekah and Caleb in 1691, and a younger Christopher in 1692.

Another Nonconforming divine found his way to South Repps at this period—John Loughes, who although originally ordained by Bishop Reynolds "afterwards became minister of a Congregational Church at Southrepps and Alby. He had such favour among his neighbours his meetings were never broken up."

South Repps must have been a hotbed of Dissent, for we read that all this while Edward Brome, the signatory of the Covenant, "exercised his ministry in private among his parishioners until his death." Meanwhile in the adjoining parish of Trunch there was

16. *Ibid.*, pp. 345-6.

17. *B.M. Pamphlets*, E. 447 (6).

a Puritan minister, the Reverend Richard Lawrence, M.A., who does not occur in any list of rectors, and who was ejected at the Restoration.

At North Repps the Reverend Edward Corbet (or Corbett) was also an adherent of the Puritans. He was appointed to the living by the King in 1636, and although I have seen it stated that his living was taken from him at the Restoration, in reality he seems to have retained it until 1667.¹⁸ He was also rector of Sidestrand from 1661 to 1662, on the presentation of Thomas Doodes.

We may assume from the above evidence that the greater part of the Soke of Gimingham was fairly deeply committed to the Puritan party and its tenets, and it was probably at this period that the churches were denuded of whatever adornments and ornaments remained to them after the Edwardian spoliation. However, one is thankful to think that the reformers did not do their work too thoroughly, and that such treasures as the Baptistry and Screen at Trunch and the Roof at Knapton have been left to us.

18. For all the above facts see Calamy, *Nonconformists' Memorial* III., p. 1-23.

CHAPTER VII.

(a) LIST OF RECTORS.

GIMINGHAM.

Jo'es Ep'us Norvic dedit Joc'o de Lund eccliam de Gimmingham et ipsum ad praesent monachoram de Lewes instituit salva solutione, 5 marc. monachis. (*Cart. in Scacc. Le Neve, N. Erp.*, 611).

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
temp. Henry III.	Adam de Stratton		See Part IV., Chapter I.
1300 (May)	Thomas de Querle	Prior and Convent of Lewes.	
1300 (Aug.)	Bartholomew de Cardewyle	"	
1310	John de Dynyston	"	
1320	John Warine de Stondere	"Ex provis Ap'licâ"	In 1329 a pardon is granted to William atte Gate, <i>Chaplain</i> , of Gimmingham for acquiring in fee, without licence, from <i>John de Dyneton</i> , parson of Magna Sandale, Co. York, land in Gymyng-ham and South Reppes. (Pat. R. Cal.) June, 1324. Protection for one year to John Waryn, parson of the Church of Gymmyngham. (Pat. R. Cal.) 1325 Presented by the king to Eston, Dio. Salisbury (Pat. R. Cal.).

1326	William de Walyngford	John, Earl Warenne	1350, 13 Ap. Protection till Michaelmas for the "king's clerk, William de Mirfeld, parson of Gymyngham, and for John Gees, John Fissch, Nicholas Codyng and other his servants, by whom he purposes to have crops, malt and other victuals loaded in some small boats in Norfolk and brought by sea to London for his sustenance and to make his profit of." (Pat. R. Cal.).
1342	William de Mirfelde		1353. Appointed rector of Rawreth, Essex, by the King. (Pat. R. Cal.).
1353	William de Sutton	Prior and Convent of Lewes	"With Rawreth, London." (<i>N. Exp.</i> 611) probably infers an exchange of benefices for Wm. de Mirfeld was appointed to Rawreth in 1353. Will dated 1376, proved 1379.
1386	Henry de Hopton William Hawe William de Fulmere	— — Prior and Convent of Lewes	"With Horsley, Went."
c. 1390	Walter or William Wynter	"	8 Oct. 1390. "Ratification of the estate of Wm. (sic) Wynter, as parson of Gymyngham." (Pat. R. Cal.).
1401	Robert Falbek	"	12 Sep. 1401. "Ratification of Robert Falbek, parson of Gymyngham." (Pat. R. Cal.). 1406. Nominated by the Abbot of Battle to the "vicarage of Braunford, with the Chapels of

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1406	Robert Stratton, <i>alias</i> Wryght of Stratton.	(Exchange)	Brustall and St. Albert annexed in the dio. of Norwich, on an exchange with Robt. Wryght of Long Stratton; "by the King "by reason of the temporalities of the bishopric of Norwich being in his hands." (Pat. R. Cal.).
1422	Thomas Glyse	Prior and Convent of Lewes	1417. Thos. Godeston and others grant to Robt. Aldewyk, certain lands in Little Blakenham, Brannford, Cleydon, etc. of the gift and feoffment of Robert Stratton, rector of Geringham and others. (B.M. Add. Ch. 10061). "With Kynningland."
1443	Stephen Clerk	"	"Directed to be buried in the Chancel."
1448	Robert Reynald	"	
1453	William Reynald	"	
1454	Robert Cantell	"	Also rector of Trunch and Askeby. Tenant of part of the Gimmingham demesne lands. Buried in Trunch Chancel, 1480.
1496	John Goose Hugh Barker	— "	Legacies for the gilding of the Image of St. Ann, 10s. to the Church, timber for the Chancel, etc. See Gimmingham Wills.
[1496	Nicholas Wodeford	"Chaplain of Gimmingham"	occurs in the Court Rolls].
1531	Richard Lache	Prior and Convent of Lewes In 29 Hen. VIII.	Dispossessed of the living in 1564.

1564	James Lyng	they conveyed the
1571	Miles Cook	advowson to the
1577	John Matchett	King, who granted it
1592	Samuel Greenway	to Thos. Howard,
1623	Thomas Thexton	Duke of Norfolk.
1660	Robert Thexton	Peter Read
1709	John Jeffery	Ann Read
1748	Henry Stebbing,	John Duke, <i>Arm.</i>
	D.D.	
1788	Philip Gardner,	
	D.D.	
1826	Thomas Turton	
1833	Ralph Blakelock	
1892	Francis Knowles	

"died of a loathing of his meat."

Also rector of Trunch.

"

" Author of Sermons. Died 1787."

Also rector of Trunch.

Archdeacon of Norfolk, 1869-1874.

KNAPTON.

1294	Robert de Ludham	—	Rector of K. and Osmundeston. (Pat. R. Cal.).
1303	Robert de Elmham	Lady Joan, Widow of Sir Rich. de Plays.	
1321	Roger de Stevington	Sir Rich. de Plays	

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1329 [or 39]	John Atte Faldegate of Hengham	Sir Thos. de Burgh.	
1349	Richard de Tackewell	Sir Rich. de Plays	"He died intestate." (Norris).
1371	William Smethe	Sir John de Plays	A witness to the alienation of Plays Manor in Feltwell to the prior and Convent of Bromhill. (Pat. R. Cal.).
1392	John de Tirington	Sir John Howard	
1394	Michael de Beverley	{ Sir Rich. Waldegrave, William Smethe, Clerk. Simon Baret and Paulinus de Middleton }	"These (the patrons) were certainly Feoffees for the Family of Howard." (Norris).
1410	Thomas Clare, D.D.	Sir John Howard	
1421	Clement Cook	"	"A monk of St. Edmund's Bury." (Norris). By his Will dated and proved 1428 "he directed to be buried in the Churchyard at Knapton, and gave to the repair of the Church 26s. 8d., to the Augustine Fryers at Norwich 6s. 8d., to the Friars Preachers at Clare in Suff. 6s. 8d., and made Clemt. Cook his nephew Exor." (Norris).
1428	John Wortham	Sir John Howard	
1433	Thomas Erle	"	for the Will of Peter Erle, his brother, see Knapton Wills.
1465	Richard Chauntry	Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford.	

He erected the Chancel roof (now destroyed). In his Will (*q.v.*) dated 1518, he directed to be buried in the Chancel and gave 40s. to the repair of Knapton Church.

George, Archbishop of York and other feoffees.

Duke of Norfolk
Anne, Countess of Oxford

"

"

"

Assigns of Sir Robt. Wingfield

Thos. Green, gent.

"
the Queen

"Long suit between Mr. Pendleton and other Parishioners about tithes in kind. They insisted that he was not lawful rector. Deposed 1583." [*N. Exp.* p. 618].

Ejected by the Commonwealth.

Puritan minister put in the place of the rightful rector].

John Smythe or Smythe

Thomas Lawney
William Cutler

Richard Pranke

William Hatch

Stephen Bayly

Thomas Browne

Richard Greene

Abel Smith

William Taylor

Godfrey Pendleton

Edmund Pendleton

Richard Howes

Roger Lowd

Robert Seppons

Thomas Gill

Benjamin Castell

St. Peter's College, Cambridge.

John Worts, gent.

St. Peter's College.

1471

1518

1529

1542

1548

1553

1556

1564

1573

1573

1581

1613

1626

[

1661

1683

1705

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1709	John Seaman		
1759	Humphrey Christian	Edmund Law, D.D.	"died 11 July, 1759, aet 77." (Rye).
1773	John Price Jones	Mrs. M. Fowle	Also Vicar of Docking.
1781	John Christian	Bishop of Carlisle.	
1788	John Colman	Bernard Wigg "de- visee and executor of J. Fowle."	
1837	William Lawson Barnes	Rev. Francis Barnes, D.D.	
1895	Leonard Morris Chester	St. Peter's College.	
1912	Herbert Armstrong Watson, D.D.	"	
1917	William Alfred Shilcock.	"	

MUNDESLEY.

1324	Alexander de Chig- welle	John, Earl Warenne	
1344	Henry Hap	---	
1371	Peter de Wele	John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster	"Peter Well, late rector of Monesley, deceased 1377." (Reg. Heydon, f. 78 ^b). Item presentation of John de Broughton to the Church of Moneslea, 12 Oct. 1375. <i>Reg. of John of Gaunt.</i>
1375	John de Broughton	"	

1380	John de Dalton	" King of Castile."	" In exchange for Gynget Stone, London Diocese." (Norris).
1391	John Collys	—	" In exchange for the free Chapel of St. Radegund in the Crypt of St. Paul's, London." (Norris).
1404	John Slyngesbye	The King	
1405	John Fourbour	"	
14—	William Erdyngton	—	
1411	Alan Thame	"	" In exchange for Sekynton." (Warwickshire).
1426	Thomas Molenes or Molentz	Henry, Archbishop of Canterbury and feoffees of Henry V.	
1464	Robert Williamson	The King	Occurs as rector 1466 and '68.
1483-4	John Wryght		
1484	John Jamys		Rector of Mundesley in Pat. Roll for 1 Rich. III.
1485	William Davyes	The King	(Reg. Lib. XII., f. 124).
	Thomas Assehowe or Assehewe	"	(Reg. Lib. XII., f. 169).
1490	William Assehowe or Assehewe	"	
1493	John Russell, Russell, or Roesell	"	For his poaching escapades see Part IV., Chapter II. By his Will dated 1520 he gave to the Church an Altar Cloth and 13s. 4d. for repairs.
1520	Nicholas Flyght	"	A member of the local family of Knapton and Trunch. For his Will see Mundesley Wills.
1523	William Curties	"	

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1542	Edmund Peck or Pecke	The King	Buried in the Church 1546 and directed his ex- ecutors to repair the Font.
1546	Anthony Temple, M.A.	"	Also Vicar of Saxthorpe.
1554	Thomas Breteland	"	Also Rector of Felbrigge.
1563	William Pulleyn	"	Chaplain to Henry, 3rd Lord Cromwell, and Vicar of Farndon, Notts.
1580	Laurence Bond	"	"Noe graduate."
1584	James Matchet	"	Also Rector of Paston. Was living as rector in 1637, but had been deprived in 1636.
1613	Robert or Thomas Smith	"	A loyal Churchman and supporter of Matthew Wren, bishop of Norwich, who used him as one of his rural deans or commissioners. He was appointed to Mundesley on the deprivation of Smith.
1636	John Novell or Nowell, S.T.B.	"	Also rector of Topcroft, Suff., which he held by dispensation. Sequestered c. 1642, restored 1662. Died 1671. Father of Archbishop Teni- son.
1639	John Tenison	"	Found to be a Roman Catholic and ejected. Died in 1661 and buried in the Chancel. Ejected 1662].
[	— Gubbard Robert Bidbank Paul Amyraut or Amirant	Puritan Committee " "	
1662	John Tenison	restored	
1674	Wormley Martin, M.A.	Duchy of Lancaster	Also rector of South Repps.

1677	John Montford or Mountford, M.A.	Also rector of Trimmingham.
1721	Edward Bilstone, M.A.	"
1756	William Claggett or Claggett	"
1775	Jeremiah Bigsby or Bigsley	"
1783	Erasmus Druery	Buried at South Repps, 1798.
1798	John Nedham, B.A.	"
1803	Thomas Penton	"
1806	Edward Hulton, M.A.	Also rector of Trimmingham.
1817	Robert Steele	"
1858	Edward Thos. Scott	"
1884	James Alexander Crozier	"
1886	William Richard Croxton	"
1888	Henry Crozier Cas-son, B.A.	"
1896	Thomas Tegg Harvey	Instrumental in carrying through the restoration of the Church.

NORTH REPPS.

14 Edw. I.	Thomas Kok	—	see <i>Gaol Delivery Roll</i> , 14 Edw. I., m. 52.
1294	William de Rollesby	—	Also rector of South Repps and Trimmingham. Granted a protection 27 Sep. 1294. (Pat. R. Cal.).

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON	REMARKS.
1311	William de Warennia	John, Earl Warenne	Granted land in North Repps. See part iv., chapter ii. See part iv., chapter ii. Rector of South Repps, 1323. Also rector of St. Katherine, Coleman Street, London.
1315	William de Cusancia	John, Earl Warenne	
1324	Peter de Cusancia	"	
1378	Gregory de Stanford	John of Gaunt,	
1385 (Mar.)	Thomas Bryghtwell, S.T.B.	Duke of Lancaster	
1385 (Sept.)	William de Ashton	"	
1390 (Jan.)	Henry Spicer, of Harleston	"	
1390 (Nov.)	John Langevil	John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and King of Castile	
	[Gap in the list of rectors].		
1476	Robert Aspatre	The Queen	"Parson of the Church of North Repps," supervisor to the Will of John Playford, donor of the Screen, 1514. "Sir Robert Lyttlewood, priest" by his Will dated 1519, directed to be buried in the Chancel. (Reg. Gylys, f. 142).
1484	Hugh Lovedred	The King	
1493	John Holderness	"	
c.1514	Peter Greves	—	
	John Cumfray		
c.1519	Robert Lyttlewood		

1519	Thomas Gresham	The King	Also rector of South Repps.
1559	Geoffrey Turner	The Queen	[N.B. In 1555 William Wayte, Clerk, of N. Repps, bequeathed legacies to his cousins, the Rugges.]
1578	Richard Blake	"	
1583 (July)	William Bennet	"	
1583 (Nov.)	Libertus Alman	"	
1592-3	Andrew Carr, M.A.	—	See <i>Status of the Elizabethan Clergy</i> .
1636	Edward Corbett	The King	Of Puritan tendencies and ejected at the Restoration. Rector of Sidestrand 1661-1662.
c.1667	Richard Heyrick	—	Died 1667.
c.1708	Benjamin Beck, M.A.	—	"Died 2 March, 1720, aged 75."
1729	Charles Stokes	The King	
1736	Thomas Wilson	"	
1774	Whitley Heald	Duchy of Lancaster	"Died 1 Aug. 1806, aged 50."
1786	Ludlow Holt, LL.D.	"	
1806	James John Hornby	"	
1809	(do. a second time)	"	
1813	Dr. Thomas Hay	"	Endowed the Sunday School.
1830	Patrick Comerford	"	"Died 15 Apl. 1869, aged 75."
	Law		
1869	W. R. Jolley	"	
1879	Samuel Francis Creswell, D.D.	"	Died at North Repps, 1904. The screen was restored and replaced in the Chancel as a memorial to him.
1904	Alan Gwyn Blyth	"	

SOUTH REPPS.

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1294 1305	William de Rollesby Oliver de Wysete	The King by reason of the minority of earl Warëne	Also rector of North Repps and Trimmingham. Also rector of Trunch, 1294. (Pat. R. Cal.).
1317 1323	John de Wyset Peter de Cusancia	John, earl Warëne The King	<i>N. Erp.</i> p. 626 gives the Christian name as <i>John</i> , but it is clearly <i>Peter</i> in Pat. R. Cal. 1323. Rector of North Repps, 1315-24.
1324 1328 1339	William de Cusancia John de Langeburgh John de Helseston	John, earl Warëne " "	Dom. Robt. de Helpiston, rector of South Repps and Thomas, his Chaplain, Witnesses in Norwich, 1368. (<i>B.M. Add. Charters</i> 33, 872).
1377	Adam Pope	John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and King of Castile	9 June, 1380, License to alienate in mortmain, by Adam Pope, parson of South Repps, Reginald de Eccles, Henry Lymenour, Nich. de Blakeney and Geoffrey de Somerton, a messuage and gar- den in Norwich adjoining the dwelling of the Carmelites, held in burgage etc. to the use of the prior. (Pat. R. Cal.).
1390	William Frere	"	John Drew, parson of Harpley, William Frere, parson of South Repps and Ralph Pykard, grant to William Marriott and Joan his wife the manor of East Beckham, (etc.) late of Sir Roger de Beckham, with land in East Beckham, West Beck-

ham, Sheringham, Runton, Beeston, Schipeden, Felbrigg, Aylmerton, Sustead and Gresham and a water mill in Sheringham late of Adam Brown. (*B.M. Add. Ch.* 14523).

"Directed to be buried in the Church and gave to the Repair thereof 5 mar." (Norris).

"Chaplain of South Repps" occurs in the Court Rolls].

Also rector of North Repps. Buried in the Chancel at South Repps, 1558.

Will dated 1587, proved 1588, he directs to be buried in the Churchyard by Alice Willson his Mother "and a gravestone to be laid over them." (Norris).

Chaplain to Sir Francis Walsingham, etc. Rector of Knapton, 1613-1626.

See Part IV., Chapter VI.]

Buried at South Repps, March, 1678. Deprived. Rector of Mundesley, 1674-77.

The King
Henry Archbishop of
Canterbury

The King
The Queen

Margaret, Countess
of Richmond

Richard Goodman
William Lexton or
Laxton

Thomas Gresham

The King
The King and Queen

The Queen
The Queen

Puritans

Samuel Otes
Edmund Pendleton
John Dawson

George Downham
Edward Brome

Eligius Agas
Wormley Martin, Sen.

1421

1437

1454

1471

1488

[1496

1515

1558

1588

c.1620

c.1635

[c.1638

c.1647

1678

1716

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1716	Wormley Martin Jun.	The King	Also curate of Sidestrand. "Died 4 Nov. 1787, aged 68."
1756	John Ellis		
1788	James Hodgson	Duchy of Lancaster	"Died 21 Aug. 1802, aged 45."
1799	Charles Smith	"	
1803	Sir George Lee, Bart.	"	Archdeacon of Sudbury. "Died 4 May, 1862, aged 84."
1804	George Glover	"	
1818	" (a second time)	"	
1862	Richard Hamond Gwyn	"	
1892	Hon. John Harbord	"	
1901	Sir Frederick Sullivan, Bart.	"	

SIDESTRAND.

The rectory of Sidestrand is in two mediatis and in Pre-Reformation times both patrons presented rectors simultaneously. In modern times they merely present alternately.

temp Edward I.	John de Ringstede	Earl Warenne	All the following rectors until 1553 held "in mediety."
1306	John de Howton	Sir Thomas de Ponynys	

1309	Richard de Heydon	"			
1318	Ditto				
1333	Roger de Donewyco	John, earl Warenne			
1349	John Davy de Cersestre	Sir Michael de Ponynys			
1350	John de Weston	Henry, earl of Lancaster			
1361 (Oct.)	Richard Markaund or Markaunt	Sir Michael de Ponynys			" 1373 May 31. Presentation of Richard Markaunde, parson of Systronde to the vicarage of Watton, dio. Norwich, in the king's gift by reason of the alien priory of Thetford being in his hands on account of the war with France, on an exchange of benefices with John Swyket." (Pat. R. Cal.). By his will dated 1385 he directed to be buried in the Church or Churchyard of Trunch.
1361 (Nov.)	Edmund Godfrey, cf Trunch	Sir Robt. la Mare			
d. 1383	William Aleyn				" rector of Sustrond left half a mark for the ornaments of the Chancel and half a mark for the fabric of the Church." by exchange with Richard Markaund.
1373 (June)	John Swyket	Sir Richard de Ponynys			
1385	Thomas Anterous	John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and King of Castile.			
1390	Thomas de Houton	"			
1391 (July)	John Merigo	John Atte Wode			Also rector of St. Peter Southgate, Norwich.

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1391 (Sept.)	Richard Munden	John of Gaunt, etc.	Also rector of Swinderby, Lincs.
1399	Hugh Germonon	James Atte Wode, of Sydestrand.	
1401	Thomas Hylbrond	"	
1402	Bartholomew Benet	"	
1404	Clement Albon	"	
1406	Thomas Pecke	The King, Duke of Lancaster.	
1408	William Usher	"	Also rector of Westoft and Chantry Priest of Gimmingham onwards from 1402.
1408	William Toures	"	Also rector of Haghham (sic) Lincs.
1409	John Atherston	"	
1410	John Conray	"	Also rector of Rodfield, Cant. (sic).
1414	Geoffrey Lecok	"	"By his will dated and proved 1424 directed to be buried in the Chancel and gave 3 roods of land on the south side of the parsonage to be sold and the money laid out in the repair of the Church."
1427	Edmund Barker	The Bishop, by lapse.	
1439	John Wynter	William Atte Wode of Syderstrand	
1442	John Burton	"	
1464	Robert Taylor	The King, Duke of Lancaster.	

1477	John Koose (Roose)	(not registered).	John Attie Wode, <i>gent.</i>	There is a brass to his memory at Trunch.
1492	Edmond or Nicholas Pylgryme John Tokry		Henry Quartys, <i>gent.</i>	"By his will dated and proved 1538 he directed to be buried in the Church of St. Michael ther before the Altar of Our Lady, Sir John Benwell, parson of Sydestrond, one of the witnesses."
1533	John Benwell		Radcliffe, earl of Sussex.	
1553	William Mepall William Johnson		(not registered). Henry Sussex, <i>vice</i> Lord Fitzwalter.	By his will dated 1558 directed to be buried at South Repps.
1559 1568 (7 Mar.)	William Tyler Thomas Punder William Cockman		(not registered) The Bishop, by lapse Thomas Sussex, <i>vice</i> Lord Fitzwalter.	Will proved 1568.
1568 (18 Mar.)	Thomas Nabbes or Nobbes, B.A.		The King, D. of L.	Also rector of Overstrand, 1580. The first rector to hold the two parishes jointly.
1598	John Money		"	Also rector of Overstrand.
1600	Thomas Munday		Thomas Kemp, <i>ar-</i> <i>miger.</i>	"
1639	Rice Allison		The King, D. of L.	Of Puritan tendencies.
1661	Edward Corbet		Thomas Doodes, <i>gent.</i>	Of Puritan tendencies. Also rector of North Repps, 1636-1667.
1662 (Feb.)	Vincent Vearse of Ranworth, S.T.B.		Robt. Houghton of Ranworth.	

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1662 (June)	Peter Lock	Thomas Doodes	
1674	John Dibald	"	
1680	William Ashmore	Nicholas Doodes	Also rector of Overstrand.
1712	George Bearfoot	Roger Duncomb, <i>gent.</i>	"
1748	Charles Vaughan Baker	T. Thornbury.	
1785	Edward Edwards	Duchy of Lancaster	
1834	Paul Johnson, jun.	Samuel Hoare	Also rector of Overstrand.
1871	Forster George Simp- son	Duchy of Lancaster	"
1892	Lawrence Carter Carr	Samuel Hoare, M.P.	"
1911	George Frederic Sharland	Duchy of Lancaster	
1916	Charles Ivo Sinclair Hood	Sir Samuel J. G Hoare, Bt., M.P.	

TRIMINGHAM.

1294	William de Rollesby	—	Also Rector of North Reppes and South Reppes.
10 Edw.	Nicholas de Castle- acre	—	
1317	Richard Pykot	John, earl Warenne	Also rector of Poringland.
1324	William de Haya, of Runton	"	

1349	James de Platea	Henry, earl of Lancaster.	Also rector of Swaby, Lincs.
1384	William de Pountfrevit	John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster & King of Castile.	Also vicar of Martham.
1392	William de Bynnebrook	"	Also vicar of Chesterton, Ely.
1393	John Salteby, <i>alias</i> Lanun	"	Also rector of St. Clement ad pontem, Norwich.
1405	Robert Tymworth	The King	Also rector of Kettleburgh, (Suff.).
1411	William Stoke	"	
1419	Richard Proo	"	
1424	William Pete	Archbishop of Canterbury and feoffees of Henry V.	
1434	John Grimesby	"	
1448	John Hore William Pomel	The King	In the following centuries Pomel began a common name at Sidestrand.
1457	Thomas Eyre	"	
1464	John Stery	"	
1471	Richard Colfox	Eliz. Queen of England	
1477	William Stokes	"	
d. 1553	Robert Chapman	—	"parson of Trimmingham by his will dated 5 Ap. and proved 23 June 1553 directed to be buried in the chancel at the south end where the Altar was." (Reg. Wylkyns f. 48b.).

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
	(Gaps in the list of rectors of this period).		
c.1584	James Matchet		"noe grad." Also rector of Mundesley.
c.1677	John Montford or Mountford		"
1721	Edward Bilstone, M.A.	The King	
1756	William Claggett	Duchy of Lancaster	Aged 25 at his appointment. Died 6 May, 1756, aged 60, and was buried at Trimmingham.
1775	Stephen Gage	"	Also rector of Mundesley.
1806	Edward Hulton, M.A.	"	"
1816	Robert Steele	"	
(or 17)			Died 16 Dec. 1857. There is a window to his memory at Trimmingham.
1860	E. F. Hutton	"	
1861	W. A. Cutting	"	
1867	C. C. McArthur	"	
1873	Abraham Matchett	"	
1883	Thomas P. Govett	"	
1886	W. Tatlock	"	
1900	Alfred Owen Smith	"	
1909	Reginald Charles Page	"	
			} by exchange of benefices.

1294	Oliver de Wysete	—	Also Vicar of Wakefield, Rector of South Repps, 1355. (Pat. R. Cal.).
1338	Robert Joye of Attle- burgh	Bartholomew de Stanhowe, lessee of 28 acres in Clench- warton with the ad- vowson of Trunch, leased by the prior and convent of Castleacre for 20 years, commencing 1334, (Norris). John, earl Warenne	
1339	Thomas de Lewes		"Patron hac vice on ye resignation of Joye." (Norris).
1349	Ralph Bygot	Prior and Convent of Castleacre	In 1350 Ralph Bygot, "parson of the Church of Trunch," and Sir Oliver Wyth, kt., had licence to alienate the manor of Palling, etc. to the prior and convent of Hicking. (Pat. R. Cal.).
1352 ¹	John Edward de Fressingfield	"	
1365 ¹	John de Wyneston	"	
[1397]	John King		"Chaplain of Trunch" occurs in the Court Roll].

1. These dates are given by Mr. Rye in *N. Erp.* as 1362 and 1360. I have followed Norris in printing them as above.

DATE.	RECTOR.	PATRON.	REMARKS.
1401	Richard Hildegar	John Playford, John Heron, Robt. Somery, Richd. Basingham and Richd. Brayton, assigns of the Prior and Convent of Castleacre. Prior of Castleacre	" 1405, Nov. 10. Presentation of Richd. Hildegar, parson of the Church of Trunche, to the Church of Neuton Longevile, dio. of Lincoln, on an exchange of benefices with John Wysbeche." (Pat. R. Cal.).
1405	John Wysebech		
1438	Robert Cantell	"	Also rector of Gimingham, 1454 to 1480, lessee of part of the demesne lands, who by his will, dated 1480, directed to be buried in the Chancel at Trunch.
1481	Richard Mytton	"	Supervisor to the will of John Gogill, 1496, q. 2., donor of the Chancel roof, and buried in the Chancel "before the Image of St. Botolph."
1504	Robert Leke	"	
1505	Bartram Wodehouse, LL.B.	"	
1548	Thomas Powle or Pawle	The King	Buried in the Church.
1554	Richard Gatefeld	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.	
1566	John Salesbury, S.T.B.	Peter Read	Prebendary and afterwards Dean of Norwich, etc. See Part IV., Chapter VI.

1572	Lancelot Thexton, S.T.B.	The Queen	Chaplain to Edward VI., Prebendary of Norwich and the holder of "many other preferments." He died 25 Feb. 1588 and was buried in the Chancel where his monument remains. Also rector of Sloley.
1589 1619	Robert Thexton Robert Thexton	John, Duke, gent. Assigns of the Master and Fellows of St. Catherine's Hall.	
[1649	Richard Lawrence, M.A.	Put in by the Puritans	ejected at the Restoration].
1660	Robert Thexton	The King	Also rector of Gimingham.
1709	John Jeffrey	Master & Fellows of St. Catherine's Hall.	Also rector of Gimingham.
1748 1826	Henry Stebbing Thomas Turton	" "	Also rector of Gimingham. (Disunited from Gimingham by Act of Parliament).
1832 1882	Thomas Jarrett William Frederick Kimm	" "	
1910	John Griffith Ches- hire	"	Died and was buried at Trunch, June, 1916.
1916	Horace E. Farrell	"	

(b) LIST OF PAROCHIAL CHARITIES.²

GIMINGHAM.

"T[errier], 1806. Two Poor Houses under one roof, belonging to this parish." "The rector has 1a. 1r. of land, left by Widow Browning, for a sermon on St. Stephen's day. An acre is charged with providing bell ropes."³

KNAPTON.

G[ilbert's Act, 1786]. "About 20 P. of Land, let to Mr. Chalmer, of Mundesley, at 2s. 6d. a year; but other particulars respecting it are unknown.

T.1706. 2l. given by the Widow Browning, the interest for poor widows. The same is mentioned in Terrier 1806, as being in the hands of the overseers for the time being."

MUNDESLEY.

"In the last Terrier is mentioned 1 A. of Land, called Sermon Acre, in an inclosure belonging to Joshua Bacon, the produce of which, 10s. 6d., used to be given yearly to the Poor in bread, but this gift has been stopped for many years." No doubt the original benefaction was for the endowment of an annual sermon. Subsequently the land was sold to William Barcham, subject to an annual charge of 10s. 6d. for the poor of Mundesley.

NORTH REPPS.

"G. 2l. 1s. from Land, vested in the Churchwardens, not known when or by whom given; the rent has been applied for ornamenting the church for 100 years past.

T. Also a Cottage or Town-house, situated next the Churchyard." This building was pulled down about forty-five years ago and its site forms an unconsecrated part of the present Churchyard.

SOUTH REPPS.

"G. 5 Pieces of Land, containing together 5 A. 1 R. and let to separate tenants for 2l. 19s. yearly, for the benefit of the poor.

Houses, occupied by various poor persons, but when, or by whom the houses and land were given, is not known."

2. From *An Account of the Different Charities belonging to the Poor of Norfolk*, abridged from the return of Gilbert's Act, 1786, and from the Terriers in the office of the Lord Bishop. By Zachary Clark, 1811.

3. White's *Norfolk*, edit. 1890, p. 320.

SIDESTRAND.

"G. Land in the possession of Thomas Nurse, producing 1*l.* 14*s.* yearly, for the benefit of the Poor." This consists of 2 acres, called the Poor Land, lying in Trimingham and now let for £2 to Mr. J. H. Buxton.

TRIMINGHAM.

None.

TRUNCH.

"G. A Rent Charge of 1*l.* yearly from Land, the property of Jacob Preston, Esq. given, by Will, by William Worts, in 1693; to give to 4 poor widows, who are most in need, once in 2 years, 4 yards of red blanket each.

T. Three small cottages near the Church, inhabited by poor people, noticed in Terriers of 1709 and 1716, but not since."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CHURCHES AT THE PRESENT DAY.

The scope of this book does not allow me to give a detailed architectural account of the Churches within the Soke, and this chapter is merely a brief survey of their chief beauties and characteristics.

Of Norman architecture practically nothing remains save a few scraps of moulding at Mundesley and North Repps, whilst the Early English style is only represented by two lancets in the Chancel at North Repps. It is to the later periods that the Soke Churches belong, to the time of real prosperity in Norfolk, when the woollen industry was at its zenith, and when the parishes seem to have competed with each other in the erection and adornment of splendid Churches.

Gimingham Church (All Saints) itself is less beautiful than many of its neighbours, and inside, the pitch of the roof has been lost, and a plaster ceiling disfigures the building. On the north west buttresses of the tower are two small canopied niches, each containing two royal crowns, put there perhaps by John of Gaunt, *King of Castile*, or by his son, King Henry IV. The South porch, with a parvise above, is a good piece of flint and stone work. The situation of Gimingham Church is delightful, standing as it does in a grove of trees, beside the little river and water mill which played so important a part in the manorial economy, and with the "Lord's Meadow" lying just to the North of the Churchyard.

Knapton (St. Peter and St. Paul) is exceptionally beautiful, even in a county which is rich in magnificent Churches. The open timber roof, with double hammer-beams and three tiers of winged angels, is one of the greatest glories of the late Perpendicular style. Much of the colour remains and upon several shields are coats of arms, including those of Latimer (*gules*, a cross) and Neville (*argent*, a saltier *gules*). The Chancel roof was once equally fine, but unfortunately it has been destroyed. According to Norris it formerly bore this inscription "round the bottom of the Chancel Roof in very

large letters, so as to extend the length of the Chancel on each side.

"Orate pro aia Johis Smyth in Decretis Baccalarii ac rectoris isti' eccl'ie qui hoc opus fabricari fecit ano domini melleno quingentesimo quarto cujus anime ppiciet' deus amen."

John Smyth was the rector of the parish from 1471 to 1518. It is evident that he was the donor of the Chancel roof, but it is uncertain if he gave the Nave roof, as is often stated. The Font of Purbeck marble is Early English, and is surmounted by a curious Queen Anne Canopy. The screen is Perpendicular, unfortunately disfigured by modern varnish. There is a brass to William Smyth dated 1516, and Blomefield mentions others to Thomas Thanner donor of 40 marks to the fabric of the Church, Richard Smith (1450), and Alice his wife (1498), and Nicholas Larke, formerly Vicar of Happisburgh, 1486, which are now lost.

Knapton can boast one of the largest and finest of mediæval copper weather-cocks, with St. Peter's cross-keys beneath it. Its size is such that it can be seen for many miles around, and for this reason it has had to be taken down temporarily during the war, as it is considered too dangerous a landmark! A number of stone coffin-lids (the oldest form of funeral monument) cover part of the floor of Knapton Church, and there is also a recessed "founder's tomb" --doubtless these nameless stones once covered the bones of the de Plays, and their contemporaries.

Mundesley Church (All Saints) is but a wreck of what it once was, though skilful restoration during the last few years has changed it from a poor ruin to a decent and worthy house of God. A fragment of billet moulding in the north wall of the nave testifies to the existence of a Norman Church, and indeed a Church here is mentioned in Domesday Book. The remainder of the building is mainly of 15th century work.

North Repps (St. Mary) is a good example of dressed flint and stone work, the battlements of the tower and the west doorway being ornamented with several stones bearing the monogram IHS and capital M's, both surmounted by crowns. Traces of an older Church remain, notably two Early English lancet windows in the south wall of the Chancel. The Church as a whole is mainly of late 15th century work, and the nave roof, although not at all elaborate, is a pleasant and typical specimen of the period. The Chancel Screen has had a chequered history. It was originally given by John Playford and his wife some time before his death in 1514¹. In Georgian days it was turned out of the Church and

1. See North Repps Wills.

put away in a barn, where it lay hidden for many years. After a time it was replaced in the Church, not in its rightful position, but across the tower arch, and now finally within the last few years it has found its way back to its old place between Nave and Chancel.

South Repps Church (St. James) is of rather an earlier period than North Repps and contains a good deal of Decorated work including a treble crocheted sedilia and piscina. On the same side of the chancel is a small "low-side window" containing the figure of an angel in ancient glass. There is a simple 15th century Screen. South Repps Church tower can be seen from all over the Soke of Gimingham and beyond it. It is 114 feet high and around its base is carved a design of scallop shells, the emblem of St. James, the patron saint.

Sidestrand Church (St. Michael and All Angels) formerly stood on the edge of the cliff, but owing to the insecurity of its situation it was removed in 1881 to its present site. Every stone was rebuilt as far as possible in its original position, and the existing Church is practically the 15th century building transplanted inland. The tower was not removed as it was of no particular interest or beauty, and had only been erected by the village builder in 1848, at a cost of £62, after the collapse of the ancient one in 1841. For many years this semi-modern tower (for its foundations were old) withstood both gales and landslips, but at last in March, 1916, it succumbed to the heavy snowfall and fell down the cliff.

Sidestrand Church contains one really interesting ancient feature known as the "Sidestrand Cross." It is a memorial to William Atte Wode, patron of the living in 1439, and is an equal armed stone cross, with graduated ends, in the Greek style, a most unusual and unexpected form to find in an English village Church.² Discovered bricked up in the chancel wall on the removal of the old Church, it is now let into the south-east wall of the Nave above the site of a former Altar. It bears the inscription

"Orate p̄ nra Willli Atte Wod."

Amongst many modern adornments Sidestrand Church is the fortunate possessor of a most beautiful Rood, the joint work of a Belgian refugee, an English nun and a London workman, a work of art which brings back to it something of the splendour lost in the Edwardian pillage.

Probably the oldest portion of Trimingham Church (St. John Baptist) is the low buttressed tower, which dates from about 1300. The Chancel Screen is its chief beauty and interest, for not only is

² It is described in *Records of a Norfolk Village*, p. 8 and p. 261, and in *N. and N. Arch.*, Vol. IX., p. 80.

it a good example of 15th century work, but it is also noteworthy for the somewhat unusual series of saints painted on its panels. They are eight in number, and (reading from left to right) the figures are Saint Edmund, king and martyr, St. Clare of Assisi, in compliment, no doubt, to the "Poor Clare" Abbess of Brusyard, who was a local landowner,³ St. Clement, bishop and martyr, St. James the Great, St. Petronilla, the reputed daughter of St. Peter, St. Dorothea, St. Cecilia, and St. Edward, king and victim of the Corfe Castle murder. In one of the spandrels is carved the head of St. John Baptist, patron of the Church.

Of all the Soke Churches none can really compare with St. Botolph at Trunch. Its date is covered roughly by the hundred and forty years from 1360 to 1500. Within, its riches include a fine Perpendicular hammer-beam roof, some good *misereres*, or return-stalls, a carved and painted Screen, bearing the figures of the eleven Apostles and St. Paul, and which, as we have already seen, was given through the legacy of John Gogle or Gogill in 1498,—and last, and best of all, the wonderful carved wooden canopy, which surrounds the Font, forming a small and beautiful Baptistry. Its date is probably about 1500, but hitherto no record of the gift or the donor has been found. The close of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th century was evidently a time of great prosperity in Trunch, for not only did John Gogle give the Screen, but the supervisor of his will and rector of the parish, Richard Mytton, also gave the chancel roof, which formerly bore a Latin inscription asking prayers for his soul, as its donor. Perhaps one of these two benefactors also gave the Font Canopy.

Most of the Soke Churches retain their Elizabethan chalices, and nearly all have their ancient Registers complete. At Gimingham, North Repps, South Repps, Sidestrand, and Trunch, these latter begin with the year 1558, although the first few pages of entries are transcripts made c. 1598-9 from the earlier records. Knapton's oldest Register is dated 1687, whilst those of Mundesley and Trimmingham only go back to 1724 and 1748 respectively.

Such are the Churches of the Soke of Gimingham, and with them this history may very well end, for of all the former greatness and importance of the district, they alone survive as links between the present and the past. The houses of God have endured longer than the houses and families of men—Gimingham Manor House is gone, the de Warennes and John of Gaunt are gone, gone too are the Gogles, the Grymes, the Atte Wodes, and all the lesser gentry—but the Churches remain, and their beauty, though lessened indeed

3. See p. 215.

by the ravages of men, and of time itself, remain, and along with them remain some few of the old labouring families, who have never ceased to till the same soil for eight centuries or more, the Allens, Grimms, Paynes, Reynolds and the rest, for, after all, religion and agriculture are enduring—they may wax and wane in the course of ages but they can never die.

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